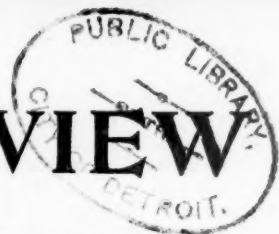


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We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications: and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Prime Minister has put the finishing touches to his Ministry. Those who looked in vain for a letter from Cavendish Square know the worst at any rate now. There must always be harsh disappointments after an event of this kind. Even Conservative Prime Ministers, we must admit, have been known to disappoint some of their most expectant admirers; and in Mr. Asquith's case there have been so many open mouths to feed and so few loaves to go round. We wonder Mr. Asquith did not softly ask Sir Henry Fowler and Lord Ripon to make way for younger blood. Probably he would if they had held House of Commons offices.

Mr. Morley goes to the House of Lords with the approval of everybody who counts. He is certainly one of the rarest figures in English political history: a very wise man, who looks far deeper into things than most men of action care or find time to do. Perhaps he is the only great man of action to-day who is also a great man of contemplation—though Mr. Balfour, easily excelling Mr. Morley in action, might, if he chose, equal him in the other realm. Mr. Morley really strengthens the House of Peers. He and Lord Courtney will now be able to drive home together from Westminster to Chelsea.

"The years that", according to Wordsworth, "bring the philosophic mind" sometimes bring surprising peerages too. We have heard lately of a certain pit-boy, have we not, who has lived to be "the finest gentleman in England". And it may be that Mr. Burns will yet improve even on Mr. Burt. One may play

with the thought of what title he will choose, should "honest John" follow by-and-by "honest John" to the House of Peers. The title of Lord Battersea is now available. But there is something still more attractive in the title of Viscount Lavender.

The great feature of the reconstruction is of course Mr. Lloyd George as Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. George is an exceedingly adroit and clever man, and his industry has always equalled his talents. His success is absolutely his own. He has made it himself. So much we can all admit, and also that socially he is a pleasant man, without conceit and without overbearing. He can tell a good story, too. But Conservatives who are going in for a Lloyd George cult do not know their man. What is a cult to-day will be a curse to-morrow. Mr. George is by extraction, training, sympathy, utterly opposed to all things a Tory or Conservative holds dear.

It is said that Mr. George is "too sensible" to strike at the "solid interests". Mr. George will not strike at the rich quite as Mr. Grayson for instance would strike at them. He will not kill the goose, but he will clutch a large number of its golden eggs. He no doubt believes in property, and would constantly be taxing the rich very heavily for the benefit of the poor. He would use the prosperous classes somewhat as milch cows. That was Robespierre's idea, and it is Mr. Lloyd George's. As for the House of Lords and the Church, his policy is "Thorough". He simply desires to do clean away with them as parts of the State. We have not much doubt that the Bishop of S. Asaph, who cares for the Church Establishment in Wales intensely, is for striking some bargain with Mr. George. But these things can never be proved.

Mr. Asquith lost a great chance in the way of delicate irony when, in remaking his Ministry, he failed to give Lord Tweedmouth the Privy Seal. Whatever the actual duties that belong to that office, it sounds the appointment of all appointments for a statesman who has difficulties over his correspondence with foreign "potentates", as Lord Rosebery calls them. Privy

Seal at any rate must be able to guard his letter-bag from the public press. But Mr. Asquith made up for this by putting Mr. McKenna at the Admiralty. That was pure sarcasm. Light opera is under a cloud: so Mr. Asquith thought he would give some mute inglorious Gilbert a chance. Mr. McKenna as ruler of the King's navy is better sport than W. H. Smith.

In the reshuffling of the pack one or two of the picture cards have somehow dropped out. Thus Lord Portsmouth appears to be missing. We imagine he has been a victim to the Hares and Rabbits Act, which, not content with stirring up ill-blood between landlords and tenants, has now begun to cause quarrels between Prime Ministers and their Under-Secretaries of State. Mr. Hugh Cecil Lea M.P. must have felt a proud man when he read the list of the revised Ministry. Next best to getting into a Liberal Government yourself, we imagine, is getting your enemy out.

When Parliament resumes next Monday week, the second reading of the Licensing Bill is to be the first business taken. The Government do not want to give more than three Parliamentary days to it; but the *pièce de résistance* of the session must not be treated with too scant a ceremony. Demands for time will probably be listened to graciously. It is natural enough that the Government should want to push things on, for they are tremendously in arrears with their programme. The real labour of the session does not begin till Committee stage is reached; and not a single first-class Bill has passed second reading, and the Budget has not yet been taken.

Mr. Lloyd George's first speech as Chancellor of the Exchequer on the Kent hop question was simply a disingenuous evasion. He talked of the average import of hops when a new danger is threatening the Kentish industry. Either without knowledge or in sheer flippancy, he pretended that the recent import of hops from the West of America had been exaggerated, and instead of being eight thousand tons was only so many hundredweights. This was completely disproved. The Americans have started, as they threatened to do, to ruin the Kentish hop-growers. Mr. Lloyd George is urged to take measures to protect the growers as he did to protect British industry against foreign holders of British patents. But this brings him up against Tariff Reform, and he therefore, of malice aforethought, quotes irrelevant statistics of imports, and retreats under cover of an appeal to the Commission of Inquiry.

Among the more brilliant Bills which have lately been introduced in the House of Commons, one invented by a Suffolk member surely deserves more notice than it has got. In effect it is designed, we believe, to give the freeholders on commons the right to catch the rabbits. Fancy the lively scene when the whole village turns out on an Easter Monday or Boxing Day, with all the lurchers in the district, for a day's sport! Perhaps the Government may be tempted to take up this Bill as a great bid for the country labourers' vote at the next election. Free rabbits would as an electioneering cry beat Free Trade.

Mr. Redmond's speech on Wednesday, according to the "Westminster Gazette", comes to this: the Irish Nationalists will accept small slices towards Home Rule from the Unionists, but only the whole joint from the Liberals; they will be little-piggers when a Unionist Government is in, whole-hoggers when the Liberals have the mastery. We should be very glad if this proved a correct reading of the Irish party's attitude. It is perfectly simple; whether it is equally sane is quite immaterial. When a Unionist Government is in power, it will know how to cut the slices towards Home Rule—very thin indeed; and when a Unionist Government is out, a Unionist House of Lords should know how to deal with the other danger. For the present Mr. Redmond announces that the Government are not to be allowed a much longer term. The Nationalists are to turn them out at the first opportunity, saving, of course, the Irish Universities Bill.

They will vote against the Licensing Bill and the Education Bill, if it is not dead already. And the Irish voters in Manchester are to vote against Mr. Churchill. So thieves have fallen out once more.

Mr. Churchill is fighting for his life in North-East Manchester. That was a rare stroke of electioneering wit and daring when he came out with his startling confession that he was "looking for a safe seat". So many stupid words have to be shouted forth at elections, so many lies, and—what is almost as bad—so many utterly banal platitudes; that we may all welcome a bit of true wit. But Mr. Churchill has an unusually bold and bright opponent in Mr. Joynson Hicks. It would be very amusing if he had to go to the Keltic fringe after all for his safe seat. But we are not going to count the chickens yet.

Half-a-dozen bye-elections will keep party interest at a white heat during the next week. Attention is, of course, chiefly turned on North-West Manchester. At Dewsbury Mr. Runciman is opposed by Mr. Boyd Carpenter, and may have also to face a Labour candidate. In Wolverhampton Mr. G. R. Thorne, the Liberal choice in succession to Sir Henry Fowler, will probably be met by Mr. L. S. Amory and possibly by a Labour man. We hear nothing of a Unionist candidate in Montrose Burghs, but Mr. R. V. Harcourt, failing the discovery of a suitable Scotsman, will try to make up in the North for his failure in the South, at Hastings. Two contests not due to Ministerial re-shuffling are those in Central Sheffield and Kincardineshire. Mr. J. F. Hope will make an admirable successor to Sir Howard Vincent, but he is not to have the walk-over in Sheffield which Lord Kerry has enjoyed in West Derbyshire. Mr. Gammell has again come forward in Unionist interests in Kincardineshire, where Captain Murray would keep the seat for the Radicals vacated by the death of Mr. Crombie.

The Liberals are making quite a remarkable concession to Central Sheffield. They have actually adopted a candidate who is ready to oppose the free importation of one foreign article. Mr. Wardley, the Liberal press declares, is "as keen as Sir Howard Vincent himself on preventing the importation into England (and elsewhere) of cutlery stamped 'Sheffield' which never came from the cutlery capital". The fraudulent merchandise of swindlers then does not come, it seems, under the protection of free trade. This is something to be thankful for. Central Sheffield, which has been, almost beyond every constituency in England, long noted for its bald protection, should be happy in its Liberal candidate.

Mr. Balfour's speech at the Parliamentary Press Dinner was, in regulation journalese, "a happy effort". But effort is too violent a word to describe the easy unpremeditated art of the speech. It was only doubtful as an impromptu by the anecdote which Mr. Balfour "had read that day" of the gentleman who a hundred years ago sat in the gallery and, being bored by the proceedings, desired the Speaker to give them a song, and then pointed out a grave Quaker as the culprit.

What the press-men must have appreciated greatly was Mr. Balfour's insouciance about parliamentary speeches. We can hear Lord Rosebery in equally light phrase and with smiling irony touching the subject as Mr. Balfour did, but there are few practitioners of the art of "stringing words together" who can discuss themselves with such humorous self-depreciation. There is a certain amount of affectation in this no doubt, but Mr. Balfour shrewdly hit on the press-man's appreciation of the "raw material" which they have so often to work up into speeches. They had not much trouble over their guest's speech, we are sure. The good things were Mr. Balfour's, not theirs. These are his own: Latin quotations, if any, he warns us, are the reporters'.

Lord Tweedmouth puts a brave face on things, but there were evidently tears in his voice when he told the

cadets at Dartmouth that he was no longer at the Admiralty. He revealed, perhaps unconsciously, what must be passing in the minds of other unlucky politicians who have either been superseded or overlooked. How they would all like to explain eagerly to everybody, as Lord Tweedmouth does, "Let me clearly say that my transference to another office is not due to any maladministration that I have been guilty of"! This is very human, very naïve; and we cannot help pitying these unfortunate and disappointed politicians who are so complacent when they are in and so terribly down in the mouth when they are out.

Mr. Haldane has packed the War Office, so far as the political posts go, with his own entourage. Two of his private secretaries—Lord Lucas and Mr. Acland—succeed Lord Portsmouth and Mr. Buchanan as Parliamentary Under-Secretary and Financial Secretary to the War Office. His political confrères on the Army Council and in Parliament will be at his back when he launches his ambitious schemes. It is impossible yet to say how far the Territorial Army will be a success, as Volunteers are given till June to make up their minds whether they will join or not. Some of those who have had experience of the Volunteers say that this plan is a mistake. It would have been better to give them only, say, a fortnight, too short a time to resolve to break with their cherished corps. But by June their ideas may change. This gives coteries time to discuss amongst themselves whether the whole business is good enough, and whether it would not be well to retire in bodies.

Lord Grenfell must be accounted lucky to get his Field-Marshal's bâton as well as his peerage. The double honour conferred on a soldier usually means that he is a very distinguished commander in the field. For instance, Lord Wolseley and Lord Roberts are the only two other soldiers alive who have been given this distinction. The two rare qualifications for a Field-Marshal are the attainment of the rank of full General—either on the active or the retired list—and the possession of the Grand Cross of the Bath. Thus Lord Grenfell gains his bâton over the heads of several officers far more distinguished than he—Sir Redvers Buller, Sir Henry Brackenbury, and Sir Robert Biddulph, to name only three. He has two war medals, Zulu and Egypt, and the Khedive's Star—surely an unprecedented meagre record for a Field-Marshal, although he has orders and commemorative medals. Lord Grenfell, whether in Egypt, Malta or Ireland, has always done his work well; and he is universally respected and liked, as a sound soldier and a charming man. But we cannot call to mind in modern times the case of a soldier as little distinguished reaching the highest rank.

Mr. Stead still continues his queer attack on Lord Cromer over the Gordon incident, and columns of his copy have been quoted in the daily press during the week. Lord Cromer does not appear to be badly singed in the burning fiery furnace of invective into which Mr. Stead has cast him. We wonder Mr. Stead does not put Mr. Morley into the furnace too, for Mr. Morley's estimate of Gordon in the "Life of Gladstone" seems chillier than Lord Cromer's. We sympathise in a way with Mr. Stead's enthusiasm for Gordon, but Gordon was the last man in the world who should have been employed for the Sudan business. Lord Cromer's only fault was withdrawing his opposition at last. We want Kitcheners not Gordons for work of this kind. Gordon was a great missionary by bent, and missionaries are wasted on the great and difficult politics of empire; though, of course, we are well aware that some folk think an empire could be profitably run by a board of Booths and Campbells sitting down before a glass of cold water in Exeter Hall.

Mr. Roosevelt's flamboyant message to Congress on the subject of battleship construction has missed its mark. The President did not hesitate to suggest that the building of only two new battleships will leave the United States open to insult which she could not hope effectively to meet. Consequently he argued in favour of four extra battleships. True, the hint

has been thrown out that his real object was to make the vote for the two battleships safe. Whatever his purpose, the House of Representatives has rejected the Presidential programme by nearly three to one, and it is expected that the Senate will follow suit. There is an element of grim tragedy, as Mr. Roosevelt says, in the idea that there will be no more appeals to arms. Arbitration cannot prevent "the gravest and most terrible wrongdoing to peoples who are either few in numbers, or if numerous have lost the first and most important of national virtues—the capacity for self-defence". One might almost imagine he wrote those words with the recent history of Spain in mind. If Mr. Roosevelt has any idea of revising his decision not to stand again for the Presidency, the vote of the House may give him the necessary excuse. The Republic, he might argue, is not alive to its dangers, presidential efforts notwithstanding.

Mr. Bryce was in his better historic and philosophic vein at the Jefferson celebrations in Virginia last Tuesday. Mr. Bryce is a great democrat, but he is also a respectable historian, and the democrat and the historian have often to fight for the mastery. In his books the historian is generally on top, but in politics the democrat smotheres the historian altogether. At Charlottesville Mr. Bryce admitted that democracy had not fulfilled all the expectations of the era of hope. Many of the best minds now were mainly occupied in trying to keep the beast within bounds.

Mr. Deakin seems to be in danger of becoming that national danger in political life—the indispensable man. His opponents succeeded in carrying a motion against him in favour of an inquiry into alleged Post Office sweating, and he promptly resigned on the ground that the vote implied want of confidence. The Labour members on whom Mr. Deakin depends for his majority are unable to form a Government of their own, and will not support Mr. Reid. Hence they went cap in hand to the Prime Minister with assurances of good behaviour in future, and many members of the Opposition who are not Mr. Reid's immediate followers have shown a disposition to become Deakinites. The Prime Minister's suggestion that nothing shall be done in regard to the Post Office till after the passing of the tariff was therefore agreed to by an overwhelming majority, and Mr. Deakin's position as the result of the crisis is stronger than ever.

So much bad blood has been caused by the exclusion of British Indians from the self-governing colonies that the proposal made, or rather echoed, by Mr. Munro Ferguson and others for the convening of an Imperial Conference is welcome. The necessity for some such Conference formed one item in the agenda suggested by Sir John Quick in his Melbourne scheme for a Grand Assembly of the Empire which should meet every five years—a scheme, by the way, which would be absurd on the face of it if the Imperial Conference of 1907 had not shelved or vetoed so many vital questions at the instance of the Imperial Government. As Lord Amthill says, "the question of Oriental immigration is an Imperial problem of the first magnitude", and can only be settled by discussion initiated by the British Government. It should have been settled in 1907, and its urgency is proved by the action of Canada in sending Mr. Mackenzie King to confer with the Imperial authorities.

Prince Bülow is at present in Rome. A week or so ago he was at Vienna with Baron Aehrenthal; but he has just run over to Rome, he says in his light airy way, to return some calls made on him by Italian Ministers in 1904 and 1905. Also he really wanted to see those gardens of Sallust and Lucullus, now the Villa Malta, where Goethe and Humboldt lived, and which he has recently purchased. As for politics, the Prince skims lightly over the surface, and the Triple Alliance and the Macedonian question are smoothed over with genial generalities. His conversations with the King and with Signor Tittoni are fresh proofs of the vitality of the Alliance, and, free from the pressure of all local interests,

Germany is watching the negotiations now pending between England and Russia as to Macedonia with a lively desire that they may arrive at a practical understanding which will insure the much-needed pacification of the Balkans.

Prince Bülow's interview with the Pope shifts the interest on to German domestic rather than foreign policy. The Polish question, which raises really important ecclesiastical difficulties, was, it is said, not touched upon in the conversation. The Prince's controversy with the Centre, though it is a Catholic party, is an ordinary political one, and the Pope will regard it as concerned with purely home policy. The visit shows friendliness at least, and this is the best basis for the settlement of the numerous questions on which the Roman Catholic Church and the State are not quite agreed in Germany.

The court-martial on the sinking of the "Tiger" has not thrown more light on the causes of the disaster than the previous inquest. What the coroner's jury refrained from doing the expert inquirers have undertaken, but they have failed to solve the mystery. They have not discovered anything for which either any of the survivors or any particular deceased member of the crew can be blamed. The "Tiger", instead of following her leader, altered her course, and was thus brought across the course of the "Berwick". The explanation of this remains undiscovered, but the "Berwick" must have been visible when the "Tiger" altered her course. As to the "Berwick", there was no time for her to alter her course so as to avoid the imminent collision; but all was done that could be done to lessen the shock of the collision and to save life. There was no doubt a "personal equation" somewhere which would account for everything if we only knew it.

Another stage has been reached in the artificial diamond making case by the order of the Court, made on Tuesday, that the sealed packet containing the famous formula must be produced. It was rather an ingenious idea to contend that this packet was not a document, but in the nature of a box or safe; but the Court pointed out the admission that there was a document inside, which was what was wanted. The result is that, when the case comes on again before the magistrate, the Union Bank of London with whom the packet was deposited must produce it, which they have hitherto declined to do on the ground that it was only to be given up on the joint request of M. Lemoine and Sir Julius Wernher. What will be done with the packet, however, is in the discretion of the magistrate, as the Court would make no directions on that point.

Certain of our bishops and clergy, who are now hobnobbing with secularist and dissenting supporters of the Licensing Bill and enemies of the Church, might read a letter in Wednesday's "Times" signed "Layman". It gives the Good Friday observance of the clubs run by these friends of temperance:

Mildmay Radical Club and Institute.

The arrangements for Good Friday are as under:—Club open 10 A.M. till 12.45 A.M. At noon, in theatre, Bert Retford, Jim Savage, Rosa Costa, Lindon and Rayner, Minnie Fortescue, Alf Willis, Ivy Wilton, the Hamiltons.

Good Friday evening, at 8.30, Phil Piering's Pierettes (special).

Good Friday evening, in ball-room, Mr. W. Morton's (M.C.) complimentary ball. Dancing, 8.30 till 1.15 A.M. Souvenir programme gratis. Tickets, 6d.

Hackney Progressive Club.

Good Friday evening, at 8.45, grand limelight ball and waltzing competition. Prizes for ladies and gentlemen. Hot cross buns a speciality.

Isle of Dogs Progressive Club.

Good Friday, a grand confetti ball. A whist drive will take place every Friday night. Cosy and warm billiard-room.

This is the Radical and the political Nonconformist way of keeping the memory of the Crucifixion and preparing for the Resurrection morning. And this is in Christian England!

THE NEW CREW.

THE personalities of politicians have a wider interest for a very great number of people than the principles which they profess. The mob is yet much given to hero-worship and a great deal of the popularity or dislike, as the case may be, of a statesman is due to no profounder reason than that his personality attracts or repels the units of the electorate interpreted according to their own temperament. The prize-ring having been abolished, the British public has transferred the feelings and enthusiasms it was wont to lavish upon the "Fancy" to the occupants of the floor of the House of Commons. Here men may be seen in actual conflict with one another, stripped mentally to the buff; hard knocks are going, the capacity to take punishment and the ability to inflict it become alike evident: the clever fighter and the game one are recognised and cheered, the smiter below the belt is warned by the referee in the person of the Speaker. The crowd outside is as well posted in the methods, manners and general form of the combatants as a highly seasoned and imaginative press can manage the matter. Hence the zest and the zeal with which the man in the street sets himself to the construction of Cabinets. For the past fortnight everyone has busied himself about the selection of the champions; those high altars of the wiseacres, the Club chair, the street corner, have resounded with false prophecy, the doubtfuls sorted from the dead certainties, and portfolios thrust into the unlikely hands; who is there that is so lowly he may not make a Minister?

Opinion, as mirrored in the daily press, appears to be that Mr. Asquith's Cabinet is stronger than that of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. For ourselves we do not share this view. The strength of a wall depends not entirely upon the hardness of the stone. The new Cabinet possesses many men of great ability, but in several instances it is an ability of a precise clear-cut glitter, a lawyer-like quality that would seem to require some cement of human nature superadded, alike to soften the corners and to bind the several parts more firmly together.

It was this element Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman provided: in the new Prime Minister it is conspicuously lacking. After a particular brusquerie of Mr. Asquith's in response to a request made by several of his supporters to withdraw the Government whips in a minor division of last session, several incensed Liberals were heard to declare that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had lost his last chance of the reversion to the Liberal Premiership. It will be interesting to hear if these gentlemen vent their views at the Reform Club meeting on 28 April. Be this as it may, students of character will be interested in the comparison presented between the late and present Premiers, and in watching the measure of success attained by two men of such divergent characteristics.

To come to lesser men, at all events to lower positions. It is evident that Mr. Asquith has had to consult clamour rather than inclination in some important instances. In Mr. Haldane he had ready to his hand a Chancellor of the Exchequer of equal ability and of superior education to Mr. Lloyd George. A Liberal Imperialist and a master of mathematics, the War Secretary presents a happy mixture of the man and the machine required in a Minister of finance. But as sane imperialism and simple arithmetic are equally beyond the understanding of the jostling fanatics below the gangway, Mr. Asquith has had to promote the President of the Board of Trade. A Premier who believes in the Empire and disbelieves in Ireland must be balanced by a Chancellor who dislikes Imperialism but is beloved of Wales. The appointment of Mr. Lloyd George is the measure of excuse for Mr. Asquith's Premiership. The derision excited in some quarters by the acceptance of a peerage by Mr. Morley is rather cheap. No one who has witnessed the Secretary for India's handling of delicate and intricate affairs connected with the great dependency has felt other than admiration for his coolness and pleasure in his single-minded intention to do what was requisite regardless of the captious cant of a few Parliamentary tourists. But the inquisition of these gentry is not such

as any Secretary for India should be subjected to, and in the welcome refuge afforded by the House of Lords Mr. Morley will administer the affairs of India with a freer hand and a lighter mind. Perhaps in the contemplation of his escape he may find opportunity to reconsider some ancient opinions concerning the second Chamber expressed during a passing spasm of rhetoric. Lord Tweedmouth is placed upon a shelf, beyond the reach of harm and the German Emperor and Mr. McKenna are to rule the waves in his stead. Between the Boards of Education and Admiralty there gapes a wide difference, but Mr. McKenna has hitherto shown a greater assiduity in treading on others' toes than in tracing his own footsteps aright; from which it may be feared that he may once more overlook the obvious, and sink instead of swim. The curious will wonder whether Mr. McKenna's self-sufficiency will avail him much should he unfortunately differ on a point of admiralty from Sir John Fisher, and whether his perspicacity is such as to enable him to distinguish between a Board school and a battleship. Whatever the Navy may think of the change, there can be no doubt that the Church is unfeignedly glad to be quit of the late Education Minister. It does not frequently happen that a Government Bill becomes abortive and its sponsor "side-tracked" before reaching a second reading. Mr. McKenna's sword has broken short off in his hand.

There is certainly no gain in strength by the substitution of Lord Crewe and Colonel Seely for Lord Elgin and Mr. Winston Churchill at the Colonial Office. The exchange is one that sets amiability in the seat of experience, and promotes a wayward apostle of small ideas to the place of a sturdy opportunist possessed of a single one. Colonel Seely was one of that small band of erstwhile Tory members who left the Unionist party feeling that in some cases (the younger ones) their merits were not sufficiently recognised, and in others (the more middle-aged) that their claims were such as entitled them to no recognition whatever. In a few instances, Mr. Churchill and Colonel Seely, the transfer of their principles has led to the promotion of their persons, not without some heart-burning in certain Radical breasts, stalwart from birth, and perhaps not entirely without regret in the bosoms of the gentlemen concerned, who see in the thin ranks of the present Opposition immense scope for their talents had they exercised patience and remained in the Unionist party. Whether the business community of the country will regard Mr. Churchill's appointment to the Board of Trade as adding to the strength of the Government cannot be a matter of much doubt. His entire lack of business training is the answer. Some members of the late Cabinet who have not been moved provoke a good deal of comment. Mr. Haldane we have alluded to: his ultimate destiny is possibly the woollack, if either health or unpopularity with his own party cause the present occupant to resign. But no good reason is forthcoming for retaining Mr. Gladstone at the Home Office. He was one of the first Ministers marked out by public opinion for removal, and he has been for some time past confidently consigned to the Lords, accompanied by Mr. Sinclair. Perhaps an election in West Leeds were better avoided: a consideration insufficient however to excuse the continuance at the Home Office of so weak a Minister. Mr. Harcourt on the other hand might very well have filled Mr. Gladstone's post; his native astuteness a year ago prevented his acceptance of the Irish Chief Secretaryship, and Mr. Birrell plunged into that Hibernian bog of lost reputations in his stead. But the Chief Commissioner of Works has done more than delicately keep to dry ground; he piloted the Small Holdings Bill through the House last session ably and with success; he has brains, and is generally accredited with a knowledge of his own requirements, also a certain capacity for strategical manœuvre which enables him to arrive at their fulfilment. Perhaps he is still biding his time and riding a waiting race, keeping his rush for the finish when Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Winston Churchill have worn each other down.

However, for good or for evil, the new captain and a fresh crew have taken over the ship. They have boarded her already among the breakers; for two

years she has been drifting into shoal water, and has bumped heavily upon the rocks at Mid-Devon, Hereford, Peckham, and elsewhere. Mr. Asquith may attempt to lighten the ship by jettisoning the Education Bill and other dangerous cargo; he may seek to soothe the waves of unpopularity by the oil of old-age pensions; but, nevertheless, he will be surely wrecked should he hesitate to clap hatches on the heads of his unruly passengers below the gangway. He must hang a section of his party to save himself.

MR. CHURCHILL'S CLARION.

CHANTICLEER has gone to Manchester; he has put on his spurs and taken his stand, flapped his wings and given the preliminary crow. A terrible figure, indeed, to stand up to; one feels with the mouse in the fable. How dare anyone face so important a person, the pivotal member of the Government, on whose election the welfare of the whole world hangs? Mr. Churchill is modest enough to admit that his defeat may not cause the downfall of Mr. Asquith's Ministry; but it would be difficult to find any other catastrophe which he does not expect to follow on his rejection by Manchester. Apparently he hopes to awe the good people of the Exchange Division into voting for him from very horror at the thought of the appalling thing it would be if he were turned out. Really, from the solemnity of Mr. Churchill's tone one would think that the end of the world at least must follow his defeat. This terrible, tragic seriousness may be the taking tone for Manchester people; but it does not become Mr. Churchill. Of course, we understand that he has to play up to his part of statesman, now that he is to be in the Cabinet and, as he proudly reminded his hearers, is to control the commerce of the Empire and make the fortunes of all the business community, all at least who agree with him. He would drop the enfant terrible now; that did very well for last election, when he came to Manchester as the marvellous boy, who was to eclipse Pitt and every other youthful prodigy in politics. But now wisdom is the word, not brilliancy, the forgivable impetuosity of a boy. Mr. Churchill is quite right. It does not do to be a boy all your life; but the question is, Can you be anything else? Many cannot. Certainly you will not become a man by becoming a bore. And Mr. Churchill's pomposity since he has held office, his seer-like solemnity since he has risen to the Cabinet, are bringing even him perilously near to the bore line. In the enfant terrible part he was successful, because he did not need to play it; but the statesman requires more playing than he is equal to. For election purposes we should say he was making a mistake; he had better be a boy again. A little spontaneity will go much farther than any amount of dignity. A terrier cannot be dignified, and after all, the big dog was probably not a bit the better fighter than the little one; and fighting is the business now.

The preliminary crow rang clearly enough: there was no fault there; but it was too long drawn out. Here, again, Mr. Churchill makes the mistake of imitating those big heavy birds, the Cochin and Brahma, which prolong their melancholy crow interminably; but the gamecock, the true fighting bird, his natural model, sings out short and loud. However the excessive length of the address did not seriously impair its offence. "We are not going to be bullied." No, he is much more likely to play the active than the passive part in that process. Bullies are never bullied. It is not the bullied who crows over opponents when they are down. But one can conceive a bully sneering at Lord Milner—being out of power—as "poor". There we see Mr. Churchill's idea of good taste and fair hitting. It is in keeping with the fine spirit of his neighbour member, Mr. Horridge, who urged his audience to kick Mr. Balfour—now he was down. It was sheer insolence in Mr. Churchill to mention South Africa in his address at all. The very first thing he had to do in Parliament as a representative of Manchester was to explain away the falsehoods about Chinese labour in the Transvaal, which mainly won him his seat. Then he took refuge in long words; long words will not help him much now.

He especially is responsible for the Government policy as to Chinese labour; and that labour, which the Liberals made the country believe they were going to sweep away, largely remains in the Transvaal to this day. The Ordinance which Mr. Churchill denounced Mr. Churchill's Government have re-enacted, in spite of a pledge not to do so. And they have put into force a scheme for indentured labour in the New Hebrides reproducing the very conditions they denounced as slavery in the Transvaal and applying them to women and girls and boys. Mr. Churchill is not wise to speak of South Africa. He says that he has "conciliated" South Africa and harmonised it. What he has done is to put the Boers everywhere in the ascendant and make the way clear to a Dutch Dominion of South Africa. And during the whole of his Government's régime South Africa has been sinking from bad to worse industrially, until it is face to face with ruin. He would do well to read Sir Bartle Frere's letter, published in our "Correspondence" to-day. With Mr. Churchill as Under-Secretary for the Colonies there has grown up in South Africa, and especially in the Transvaal, which enjoyed his peculiar attention, quite a vigorous problem of unemployment. No doubt this is part of Mr. Churchill's ideal of equality! South Africa must have its unemployed as well as England. And now Mr. Churchill parades himself before Manchester as the statesman selected to deal with "the tragic question of unemployment". No wonder the colonies are all rejoicing at his appointment to the Board of Trade, which deals with unemployment in England, but leaves it alone in the colonies. Mr. Churchill's beginnings in administration are certainly striking.

As to education, chanticleer crows pianissimo. Mr. McKenna's Bill is dead; so what was Mr. Churchill to say? He does not take up the sword, which Mr. McKenna was so fond of flourishing before the battle but could not hold when it came to fighting. No: it is Mr. Birrell's olive-branch again now. And the Bishops are fine fellows now that some of them are supporting a Liberal Licensing Bill. But it will not do. The fighting-cock cannot pose as a dove but ridiculously. Sharp words from Mr. Churchill may sometimes make their mark: soft words from him will never move a single soul. In the meantime we hope the sturdy Protestantism of neighbouring Liverpool will note that Mr. Churchill distinctly pledges the Government to give exceptionally favourable terms to the Roman Catholics. Where is the Protestant Alliance? Where is Lady Wimborne? Where is the Church Association?

And where is Ireland? Well, it is nowhere to be found in Mr. Churchill's address. Mr. Churchill runs away from the Irish members, and Mr. Redmond shows his pluck, for which Mr. Churchill is so famous, by advising Irishmen in the constituency to vote against him. His Boer slimness has not come off.

And the House of Lords. Where is the grand attack? That does not figure in the address either. Mr. Churchill runs away from the peers as he ran away from the Nationalists. We shall have to look out for another figure. Gamecocks do not run away.

Has there ever been a contest in which one side had so much to gain and the other so much to lose? Unionists go into this fight knowing that they have splendid chances of winning, while they have absolutely nothing to lose. The worst that can happen to them is not to reduce Mr. Churchill's majority enough. They are certain to reduce it, so that in any event they will gain something. If they get Mr. Churchill out, it will be a shock to the Government felt in every constituency. Mr. Churchill is the most notorious member of the Ministry. He is a deserter from the party of his father—a statesman in truth and a genius—and grandfather—in whose steps he claims to be following. To Mr. Churchill—in common with Colonel Seely—the wages of ratting has been office. Mr. Churchill has not been wanting in the venom that always marks the man who goes over to the enemy; and now he goes about complaining that the wicked Tories are not playing the game in contesting his seat! He who does not give quarter should at least be man enough not to expect it. To part fair foes is all that need be asked for in this fight. This election may well give Mr. Churchill to think. Was not his ratting a bad calculation after

all? Might not his prospects have been brighter now had he stayed in the party of his family's traditions? However, his private fortunes are his business. The public significance of this election is the thing. We cannot imagine a greater good to this country and the whole Empire than Mr. Churchill's defeat.

STRIKES AND A STRIKE COURT.

IT is impossible to foresee how the dispute between the North Eastern Railway and its employees may develop within the next few weeks. The directors have offered to the men substantially what was conceded by the other railway companies at the happy conclusion of a more serious dispute last autumn. They have even gone further, in offering a modification of the scheme under which the conciliation boards are to be appointed. Unfortunately the men are not satisfied with the creation of machinery to redress grievances; they demand as the first condition of peace that their grievances shall be redressed. Whether or not the "all grades" programme is to be the subject of a general strike on the North Eastern the ballot-boxes must decide; but clearly the question is destined for the ballot, and the upshot is peace or war. That the men should ultimately decide against a pacific settlement seems almost incredible, partly because of the public sympathy which they must lose by action fraught with distress and disaster to the nation. It must be at least as clear to those engaged in this dispute as to any man in the country that discontinuance of the North Eastern train service means paralysis to the iron and steel trades, a great increase in the price of coal, appalling unemployment all through Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire, and a train of petty annoyances to the travelling public which will perhaps do quite as much as will the graver evils to draw sympathy from the strikers. These things may give pause to the railway servants before they take the final step of coming out; on the other hand, they are a distinct inducement to keep the fear of a railway strike alive in the public mind. Nationalisation of the railways is a principal item in the programme of the Independent Labour Party, a programme more generally accepted among the railway servants on the North Eastern than among those in southern districts. Strikes and rumours of strikes must, in the would-be strikers' view, tend toward the realisation of that end. Let the people once truly learn that the railways are the arteries of the nation, let them see that a dispute between employers and workmen can paralyse the nation's heart, and they must, so runs the argument, conclude that risks under the present system are too grave, that the lines which are a vital necessity to the State cannot be left in private hands.

Such crises as the present make us realise that there ought to be some means, and in the case of railways there soon must be some means, whereby disputes between employers and workmen may be settled without the tremendous consequences of a strike. Not only so, but some means must be found to enforce any settlement arrived at by the parties, so that it shall be utterly outside of the power of anyone, master or man, to inflict wanton and grievous injury upon the nation in his private quarrel.

Unfortunately such considerations cannot be those most operative in the minds of men facing the issues presented to the railway servants by the ballot-box. They are asked to decide on the joinder of battle in which themselves will be the combatants; but the only justification of battle is success, and success is not often the lot of the striker in a trade dispute. Of all the forms of battle which the wit of man has yet devised, the strike is the worst. That ingenious author, M. Louis de Rougemont, tells of a form of combat prevailing among the Australian aborigines for the settlement of their differences. The disputants, each armed with a stout cudgel, buffet one another alternately on the head, till one acknowledges defeat. The process was rediscovered by the trade unionist in the nineteenth century, and not inaptly christened "a strike". For a strike is just a contest of endurance between two parties—the employer who risks the wreck of his fortunes, and the workman who faces slow starvation for himself and his. In the

end both are injured more or less grievously, and except for the temporary accommodation of the dispute through necessity, no one is a penny the better. Yet the working man is very tenacious of the right to strike. It is exhilarating to be told from the platform to rise up in his thousands and make men feel his strength. He is assured that he is stronger than his masters, and the fact is palpably true. But what he forgets, and what the engineers in the northern shipyards will soon come to remember, is that, vastly stronger though the workman may be than his employer, he is also immeasurably more vulnerable. In nine cases out of ten the striker must fail miserably, and in the tenth the victory is seldom worth the price.

From the standpoint of the worker the case for compulsory arbitration in trade disputes is overwhelming; but clearly, unless there is to be an appeal to force from the decision of equity, unless the award of a court of arbitration or of a conciliation board is to be a mere good counsel, given subject to the right to sweat on the one hand, and the right to strike on the other, there must be some means of enforcing the decision against both employers and workmen. If compulsory arbitration were established by the legislature, there could be no serious difficulty in enforcing it against the employer. Motives of gain may lead him to contemn the court; the contempt may be punished by an adequate fine, and a sounder conception of his own interests will doubtless bring him to conformity in future. But the case of the workman is different. He may have no goods on which execution can be levied, and there is a limit to the capacity of prisons. Yet he may reject an award which seems to him unsatisfactory, set his own judgment above the court's, and live on strike pay from his union. The court of arbitration, if it is to be either just or useful, must have the same powers of compulsion over both the parties. The workman must be prevented from striking in defiance of the court. There is only one means by which such a strike can be prevented, and that is the means applied by the New Zealand law. The fountain-head of strike pay must be dried up. The court must have power to fine the employer on the one hand, and on the other to fine not only the active striker, but the union which provides the sinews of war.

On the whole the system has worked admirably in New Zealand. In thirteen years, since first it came into force, there have been only two strikes in the whole Dominion. The first lasted exactly four hours. The second was ended by compulsory arbitration after a suspension of work which lasted in some cases for a fortnight. The New Zealand system has been much criticised. It is pointed out that the Court of Arbitration has been very seldom called upon to act. We doubt if that fact is very damaging. Is the "Dreadnought" useless because it has never been in war? Strong armaments are the surest guarantee of peace, and strong law courts of honest dealing; the usefulness of law is not to be measured by litigation. But the industrial peace of New Zealand is clear and cogent evidence of the value of compulsory arbitration, and that evidence we must accept.

GOOD FRIDAY SPORTS.

THE attitude of middle-class opinion to Good Friday strikingly differs from the view which the same class takes of Sunday. Sabbatarianism no doubt is on the decline. Still our black-coated citizen, like his father and grandfather before him, regards the first day of the week as being essentially the Jewish Sabbath, and he sternly frowns on those who would desecrate its holy calm by noisy amusements. The public authorities and the police respect his feelings and the British Sunday still remains a day of peace. Very different is the attitude of the same middle-class gentleman to Good Friday. Of late years he has caught a glimmering notion that he ought on this day to attend church. Still he thinks it perfectly natural that his poorer neighbours should make of it an uproarious holiday, and he is willing to excuse this on the ground that they have so few other opportunities for amusement.

Theologically and historically this idea of treating

Sunday as a fast day and Good Friday as a festival is ridiculous and repulsive. Properly speaking, Sunday is a feast day, and while attendance at religious worship is on that day imperative on Christians, it is difficult to hold that its proper observance is inconsistent with quiet and innocent amusements. Saying this we disclaim any sympathy with the introduction to England of a noisy or even of a Continental Sunday. On social and industrial grounds our quiet Sundays can well be justified. But if the British Sabbath can, as we think, be defended on the grounds of expediency, the religious conscience should emphatically condemn the British Good Friday. The day of the Crucifixion is a day of fasting and humiliation for the greatest tragedy in the history of humanity. It brings a solemn warning of death and immortality, and therefore, as an ancient Archbishop of Canterbury laid down in a forgotten canon, it should be passed "*in lectione cum silentio: in oratione cum jejuniis: in compunctione cum lacrymis*".

While our Hebraistic observance of Sunday makes our national desecration of Good Friday painfully conspicuous, it would be unjust to say that Protestantism or even Puritanism is solely responsible for the abuse. No doubt our Reformation when it swept away the ancient custom of "creeping to the Cross" did much to destroy whatever popular reverence was felt for the day. The Good Friday service in our Prayer Book is no doubt very beautiful, and it is in some respects regrettable that the "Three Hours" devotion should have completely ousted it in many churches. It is, however, hardly a service to bring home to the majority the tragic solemnity of the greatest of fast days. Again the Puritanism to which we owe our modern "Sabbath" positively rejoiced in the desecration of Good Friday, and English Nonconformists have until recent years absolutely denied its religious character. To our ecclesiastical divisions therefore the popular neglect of the day may in large measure be ascribed. Still it cannot honestly be said that here we have the whole explanation of a grievous scandal. The ecclesiastical canon to which we have referred, and also a curious statute of Henry VI., suggest the idea that in the Middle Ages Good Friday was commonly given over to fairs and amusements. Indeed popular tradition has for centuries regarded it as a day of sports. It should also be remembered that in Ireland and on the Continent the popular observance of the day is often far from satisfactory. We are aware that Good Friday is not a "day of obligation" in the Roman calendar and this fact explains much. In that calendar, however, the days of obligation are all feast days. Early Christianity did not need the threat of ecclesiastical censure to force it to commemorate fast days, especially the Fast of the Crucifixion.

It is necessary to realise how ancient and widespread has been the desecration of Good Friday to understand how great were the difficulties which confronted the leaders of the High Church movement, when more than forty years ago they began to awaken the national conscience on this painful scandal. The struggle has been hard; but they have already obtained a large measure of success.

So far as religious Churchmen are concerned, the strictness with which the day is now observed leaves little to be desired, and generally one may say the same of the practice of English Roman Catholics. It is also satisfactory that Nonconformists are dropping their ancient Puritan prejudices and realising that the devotion of a special day to the remembrance of the death of Christ is an assistance to evangelical religion. It is also on the whole well that on Good Friday public business has completely ceased (in the 'thirties it was not so) and that labour is less and less employed. On the other hand the mass of the population has remained obstinately rooted in its belief that Good Friday is a holiday, and of recent years the sanctity of the day has not been improved by the now almost universal custom of spending the Easter holidays away from home. It is therefore most satisfactory to read in the papers this week that a leading football club in South Cheshire has decided to give up its traditional Good Friday game this year on purely religious grounds, and to do this although the abandonment means the loss of a "good gate". It is even more satisfactory

to read that athletic opinion in the neighbourhood approves this creditable action. Here is a significant sign that English opinion is being at last moved by the long and patient appeal of the Church.

Since popular opinion is clearly turning in a right direction, is it too much to ask that the authorities and non-religious, even ultra-Nonconformist opinion, will do something to assist it? We should be the last to ask the authorities to take any steps that might rob the hard-worked toiler of fresh air and exercise. But has not the time, we may ask, arrived for putting down in places like Hampstead Heath the rough horseplay and vulgar sports which have so long disgraced the day and which would not be tolerated on Sunday? But to the "natural man", and to the extreme Nonconformist who still retains the old Puritan prejudices we would especially address our appeal. Neither of them can honestly answer this appeal by saying he does not recognise Good Friday, and therefore is under no duty to keep it solemnly. Both do recognise Good Friday, or they would be at their daily work as on other Fridays. Why is it a day off? For one reason only. Christendom marks it as the day of commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Any one who recognises the day by knocking off work is in honour bound by its obligation. Though he fear not God nor regard the Church, he is bound to observe the religious feelings of other of his fellow citizens, and it is incumbent on him as a gentleman to enjoy his holiday in a way that will not outrage those feelings. Let only the man of the world and the Puritan be aroused to their obvious duty in this matter, and the next generation should see Good Friday recognised in England, for perhaps the first time in its history, as the greatest and the quietest day in the year.

INSURANCE.—THE MUTUAL OF NEW YORK.

AT the time when the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York was being adversely criticised for scandals in connexion with its administration, we recognised that features to which we had long taken exception would disappear, and that the result would be a great improvement in the bonuses given to policyholders. We scarcely expected, however, that the improvement would be so great as it has been in so short a time. It was always certain that the Mutual was not merely solvent but financially strong; this point was never disputed, even by those who, to gain their own ends, attacked the company in bitter and exaggerated language. The only improvement the Mutual had to make was to increase the bonuses to the shareholders, and the company's bonuses for 1907 show an increase for the third year in succession.

There are various causes of these larger profits to the policyholders. The largest single source is the gain from the rate of interest earned being in excess of the rate assumed in valuing the liabilities; this amounts to £1,325,638. The profits of the Mutual from this source have always been large, since its investments have been handled with conspicuous skill and success for as long as we can remember. The report is able to state that even in a year of extraordinary financial depression not a share of stock owned by the company failed to pay its regular dividend, and on bonds to the value of £46,000,000 there was not a shilling of interest in default on 31 December.

The gain from the provision made for expenses being in excess of the actual expenditure was £857,436: this item is doubtless the chief cause of the striking improvement in the bonuses that has taken place. Four or five years ago there was probably no surplus whatever from this source; in fact we believe that the expenditure incurred exceeded the provision made for it. It is certainly not very wide of the mark to say that by lessening the expenses of management the company has been earning nearly £1,000,000 a year as a source of additional profit for its policyholders. Doubtless one reason why the company has managed to reduce its rate of expenditure to about one-half of what it was a very few years ago is that the new business is much smaller than in former times. One of our chief complaints against the company for many years past was that it was too eager to obtain enormous

amounts of new business regardless of expense. Future years will doubtless see a larger amount of new business than was written in 1907; it is never likely, however, to be as large as it was at one time, partly because the amount is, for the present, limited by law, partly because the company no longer issues new policies in some countries where it was formerly active, but mainly because it has definitely adopted a course of rigid economy which refuses to write a larger new business than is consistent with a low rate of expenditure.

From a more favourable rate of mortality than the rate provided for by the mortality tables used in its calculations the gain for policyholders in 1907 amounted to £520,964. We have not the corresponding figures for previous years, but this item has always been a large one, since the skill of the company's medical department in the selection of lives has invariably produced an extremely favourable mortality. In this connexion it may be stated that the mortality among the policyholders of the United Kingdom is, on the whole, the most favourable experienced by the company in any country. This is due to Dr. Colcott Fox, who has been the chief medical officer in this country for a great many years. It is perhaps futile to expect that the mortality in the future will be appreciably more favourable than it has been in the past, but it may be anticipated with confidence that it will remain extremely good. From miscellaneous sources the contribution to bonuses was £420,459, making up a total profit for policyholders in 1907 of £3,124,496.

The Mutual has abandoned the tontine system for all new policies and now declares its bonuses annually; this makes possible comparison with its previous accomplishments, which, as we have seen, exhibit a steady and great improvement from year to year.

THE CITY.

WHEN brokers say that business is bad on the Stock Exchange they mean from the speculator's point of view. From the point of view of the man who wishes or is obliged to sell, stock markets have also been bad for the last two years. But from the point of view of the genuine investor, who is looking for a high rate of interest, the Stock Exchange has never offered so many opportunities; and the only wonder is that more buyers have not been attracted to the brokers' offices. It is high time that the bull speculators should realise that, for the time at all events, all the conditions are adverse to anything like a boom in any class of security. It is true that all chance of monetary stringency has passed, that the bank rate has fallen to 3 per cent., and that therefore it is possible to carry over gilt-edged securities for a rise in capital value. But will that rise take place? Everything is against it. Everybody is nowadays a borrower—Governments, municipalities, railways, are all borrowing money in London, and the competition forces them to give very favourable terms in the shape of discounts and high interest to the lenders. A new loan appears every other day, some successful, some failures, and some partially successful. The German loan was a failure; the London County Council loan was a success. The Peruvian Corporation issue of 6 per cent. debentures was a fiasco, the new bonds being already at 1½ discount. The issue of another million of 4½ per cent. debentures by the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway was only partially successful, as the new scrip is at a slight discount. The result of the amalgamation and reconstruction of the Mexican Central and National Railroads will be watched with interest, and the new issue of 4½ per cent. gold prior lien bonds ought to be eagerly taken up, especially as Mexico is quite untouched by the financial troubles of the United States. The Underground Electric Railways is making an issue the fate of which it is impossible to predict. With all these borrowers in the market, bidding against one another for the patronage of large and small capitalists, what chance is there of a rise in existing and old-fashioned securities, such as India Threes? In the rush of new issues the recent Copenhagen loan, 4 per cent.

at 95½, is quite neglected, though it is a very good investment.

The condition of the Argentine railway market is a further illustration of what we have been saying. This last week's traffic returns show an increase of over £20,000 for the Buenos Ayres and Pacific, and of over £10,000 for the Rosario railways. Yet the prices of the shares have fallen 3 or 4 points in the last month, Pacifics having dropped from 120 to 116, and Rosarios from 112 to 109, simply because of the new debenture issue by the former company, which the market does not like. We have not the slightest doubt that the result will justify this new borrowing by the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway; but in the meantime there is a feeling that Mr. J. W. Philipps has had rather more than his share of the public savings. That the Argentine railway market will improve after Easter we feel confident, as the traffic increases will continue up to the summer.

Amongst other markets, the only one which shows the slightest animation is, as usual, the American, which is, on the whole, firm, probably because the magnates want to borrow. Union Pacifics are pretty steady round about 130, and we are repeatedly told that the 6 per cent. dividend of Southern Pacifics will be maintained, though what business men think of the assurance is indicated by the price—namely, 75. Fancy a 6 per cent. railway stock standing at 25 discount! What a commentary on the confidence felt in Mr. Harriman! Amalgamated Copper shares have risen from 50 to 61 in the last month, and are now down to 58 for no discoverable reason. Gamblers talk the usual nonsense about copper, as to which nobody really knows anything; and, in short, the Yankee market is in its usual condition of Sphinx-like ambiguity and perfect unreliability. The London Trust Company, which under the distinguished auspices of Lord Avebury, Mr. Cosmo Bonsor, and others managed to lose half its share capital, has published its report. It pays the full interest on the 6 per cent. cumulative preferred stock and 4 per cent. on the deferred stock—a small mercy for which, in contrast with former things, we ought to be thankful.

MR. PLUNKET GREENE.

IT is more difficult for me to get pleasure out of the human voice than out of an instrument, and the more like an instrument a voice is, the more I like it. In the opera the mingling of voice and orchestra can be incomparably fine, as in a singer like Ternina, who represents to me the supreme type of the dramatic singer. Her acting was as great as her voice, and her voice became a great humanising force in the orchestra. Now concert-singing, as a rule, seems to me an irrelevant form of art. It may be a personal prepossession, but the executant on his own voice seems to me a less agreeable spectacle than the sight of even the most restless player on an instrument. If he would sing, and do nothing but sing, if he would forget that he was posing before an audience, the result might be wholly satisfactory. But our best singers cannot resist the temptation of trying to act with their voices, their faces, and their gestures.

I have not often derived so much pleasure from a vocal concert as from part of Mr. Plunket Greene's recital on 3 April. I say a part, because the difference between his singing of the English songs at the beginning of the programme and of the Irish songs at the end of it was curiously conspicuous. No doubt there were reasons for it. Mr. Plunket Greene is an Irishman, and Irish songs being incomparably finer and more human than English ones, he cannot help forgetting himself in them; whereas in singing the English songs he is often conscious of his audience. In the one he struggles with the music, in the other he abandons himself to it. Once, in a song by Mr. Roger Quilter, the attitude of the lily who "slips into the bosom of the lake" was indicated by the singer's head thrown back languorously while the expanded chest was held quite rigid.

Is it really necessary for a singer of the capability of Mr. Plunket Greene to condescend to this visible and

vocal emphasising of words and cadences which, the better they are, the less they require it? Here is a splendid voice, a finished technique, a full musical equipment; in a word, a true and accomplished artist. The music that he has to sing is all on a certain level, not high, but with merits of different kinds. "The Long Journey" of Mr. H. Walford Davies, a "cycle of songs" taken from, on the whole, very good poets, was sung for the first time, and accompanied on the pianoforte by the composer with a quiet seriousness like the quality of his music. There was a certain lyrical freshness in it, sometimes gay, sometimes gentle and reverent, which showed how carefully the words and intention had been studied. Nowhere was there a vital personal inspiration, and the alternation of lightness and boisterousness throughout the long journey was alike obvious. In the Blake poem, for instance, the little prattling notes have none of Blake's ecstasy; nowhere, indeed, is a poem transfigured, as music should at least seem to do. Well, Mr. Plunket Greene did his very best to give variety and expression to song after song, and showed in doing so a remarkable and delightful technique. That he gave one entire satisfaction could hardly be said.

Among the other English songs there was one only which seemed to me to have any real value. Mr. Webber was prettily Elizabethan, but not himself; Sir C. V. Stanford was certainly not Elizabethan or within any measurable distance of the dainty pathos of the words which his music turned to rattling farce; Mr. Charles Wood was just as little like Walt Whitman, and Mr. Roger Quilter a good deal too much like Tennyson in his most sentimental mood. Finally there came a song by Mr. Ernest Walker: I hope, but do not know, that he is the writer of a fine history of English music which I have had the pleasure of praising here. If so, two rare kinds of talent are happily and unusually joined. The song was Herrick's, and was Herrick. No one else could have sung it at the breakneck and unflagging speed with which Mr. Plunket Greene gave vocal sound to a tossing, hurrying rhythm of gay, bright words, like the "gems in abundance" scattered in dew from May flowers. The music had captured the full sense and sound and speed of the words, not transfigured but faithfully represented them, with a fine, unusual tact.

After the English came the Irish songs, "traditional Irish airs", we were told, and the purity and genius of them came through the "arrangements" by which modern editors invariably insist on brushing the bloom off the flowers they have plucked. The curse of modernising is not only seen in the deformaters of Chaucer and Chatterton, the scholars in whom the sense of poetry is extinct, but in every ornament added to a folk-tune or every modification of traditional words. Yet, even in these arrangements, we had passed from one world to another. Even in the rollicking of a "Too-ralloo", as in the big pathos of the famine song of the praties, there is one general level of perfection, an inspiration, a sincerity, a mixed gaiety and gravity which is to be found nowhere but in Irish music. And here, finding himself at home, this Irishman dropped all his disguises, and burst out into just irrepressible singing. It was faultless, and all the maddening irrelevance of sighs lingered over and little sentiments coddled and cradled had disappeared, and that monotony which is at the root of all good style came in and remained. Irish music has that lyrical cry which Matthew Arnold discerned in all Keltic art. It has a whimsical emotion which gives dignity to the simplest words, and it is hard to distinguish between a hymn, a lament, and a drinking song. All are real music, and come out of the Irish soil.

May I for a moment be allowed to turn aside, on the mere chance of a word, to my persistent critic who is not even yet convinced that there is no reason in the world why Shakespeare was not born in America, except that his particular "seed" was too impatient to wait for any soil but the one nearest to it? I am certainly one of those who deny that men are vegetables, and I have only to go to the great treasury of Blake, who knew everything and said the truth about everything of importance, to find what a miserable uncreative substance the "vegetable

world" seemed to him as to all imaginative people. "Imagination, the real and eternal world of which this vegetable universe is but a faint shadow": it is in such a world that all great men of genius live. And Mr. Caulfield's vegetable image is not even correct from his own point of view; for the good seed has been known to force its way into vitality out of hard soil, while the bad seed, with all the advantages of "sun and rain and care", has never been known to turn out even a good or healthy vegetable.

ARTHUR SYMONS.

RENÉ LALIQUE.

NOUS avons de la peine aujourd'hui à imaginer l'étonnement, presque le scandale, que susciterent, il y a environ treize ans, les débuts de René Lalique. Ces premières recherches, qu'on déclarait excentriques, nous serions tentés de les juger timides, si nous ne savions ce qu'elles représentaient alors de nouveauté. Un tel changement de l'opinion et du goût en si court espace de temps est une aventure aussi glorieuse qu'elle est rare.

Sans doute ce rapide succès fut favorisé par cette complicité des circonstances qui est, pour les œuvres de l'esprit humain, ce que la saison est pour les fruits de la terre. Une révolution doit venir à son heure.

Les travaux des historiens et des écrivains d'art, en répandant l'intelligence véritable des styles anciens, en étendant jusqu'au lointain Japon le domaine de notre sensibilité, avaient dessillé les yeux du public sur l'indigence des routines qui stérilisaient depuis longtemps les industries artistiques. De toutes parts, on sentait une aspiration plus ou moins consciente vers on ne savait quoi de nouveau et de vivant.

Il n'est que juste de reconnaître ici que, dans cette lutte contre la banalité, la France avait été précédée par l'Angleterre. Les lecteurs de cette REVUE savent de reste ce que William Morris et ses amis ont fait pour l'éducation du goût public dans leur pays. Cependant leur généreuse initiative a eu pour nos Français l'utilité d'un exemple plutôt que d'un modèle. Les hommes qui voulurent doter l'Angleterre d'un style, avant d'être des artistes et des ouvriers, furent des érudits, des théoriciens à tendances littéraires, préoccupés de philosophie sociale. Ayant tous plus ou moins passé par la confrérie préraphaélite, ils gardèrent l'empreinte de cet impérieux prophète du passé, de ce révolutionnaire traditionaliste que fut Ruskin. De là vient la froideur d'une œuvre subtile, raffinée, mais trop savante, et qui fut en réalité sans action directe sur nos artistes. Certains types de meubles et le décor des papiers peints peuvent compter aujourd'hui pour les meilleurs et les plus durables des résultats acquis, les seuls dignes peut-être d'inspirer une émulation féconde.

Il n'y a rien eu en France de comparable à ce mouvement d'ensemble, centralisé et régi par une discipline unique. Ce qui s'est fait de bon chez nous fut l'œuvre fragmentaire et personnelle de travailleurs isolés, collaborant sans le savoir au même idéal : Emile Gallé, le verrier poète, le peintre décorateur Jules Chéret, le sculpteur et inventeur Henry Cros, les céramistes Carriès, Chaplet, Delaherche, et enfin René Lalique. S'ils eurent, pour la plupart, la bonne fortune d'être encouragés par quelques critiques clairvoyants, ils ne furent pas dirigés par eux; ils ne firent qu'obéir à leur vocation propre. Et ce ne sont peut-être pas les pires conditions pour créer une œuvre utile et viable, du moins en France, où la notion du travail intellectuel collectif est presque ignorée, où l'effort individuel gouverne l'Art, ce qu'il faut approuver, et même, ce qui est parfois fâcheux, la Science.

C'est ainsi, conduit pour notre plus grand profit et pour notre plus grande joie par son instinct et par sa sensibilité, que René Lalique, sans théories ambitieuses, sans philosophie préconçue, opéra, dans l'une des provinces de l'art domestique qui avaient été le plus appauvries par une sorte d'académisme industriel, sa bienfaisante révolution.

Depuis la fin du style Empire, le seul mérite d'un bijou paraît être la grosseur, la rareté, la cherté des pierres. Encore sont-elles pauvrement et lourdement serties, jusqu'au jour où Massin, vers 1850, renouvelant les traditions des joailliers du XVIII^e siècle,

perfectionne la technique, donne plus de légèreté aux montures, mais se contente de deux ou trois types, l'aigrette, la fleur, la guirlande, que ses élèves reproduisent infatigablement avec une docilité mécanique. En somme, Massin avait été un homme de métier, un habile et ingénieux ouvrier; le bijou attendait encore l'homme providentiel qui l'élèverait à la dignité de l'œuvre d'art.

Partout et en tout temps l'art subit les mêmes métamorphoses dont la succession est aussi régulière que celle des saisons, et l'histoire des écoles d'autrefois nous montre les mêmes phénomènes que nous voyons se produire sous nos yeux, parfois sans les comprendre. Un maître paraît; on le nie d'abord, puis on le discute, enfin on l'admire. Mais bientôt, des médiocres qui sont toujours le plus grand nombre, l'admiration fait des imitateurs; et c'est ce qu'on appelle une école. Le langage nouveau que le maître avait créé pour traduire sa vision personnelle du monde et de la vie devient peu à peu, chez les disciples, une leçon apprise, une formule morte. C'est d'abord le printemps délicieux, dont le soleil n'est pas sûr: il exalte les cœurs tendres et enthousiastes, mais les prudents s'en défient. Puis vient l'été, dont l'éclatante et trop égale lumière fait déjà craindre le déclin de l'automne et la stérilité glaciale de l'hiver. Mais à cet hiver succédera un autre printemps, non moins doux et pourtant différent, et, de renaissance en renaissance, l'humanité poursuivra sa route, scrutant l'énigme éternelle dont les aspects sont innombrables, cherchant, trouvant des réponses éloquentes et provisoires à la question qui ne sera pas résolue. Toujours ces renouvellements nécessaires obéissent au même mot d'ordre, le retour à la nature. Ce mot d'ordre fut celui de Lalique: le décor nouveau qu'il substituait aux arabesques figées des joailliers contemporains, ce fut à la nature qu'il le demanda.

Il exposa pour la première fois au Salon de 1894. Auparavant, il avait fait son apprentissage en travaillant pour les bijoutiers en renom, et il ne faut pas regretter ces années qu'on pourrait estimer perdues pour l'œuvre personnelle. Il y a acquis cette maîtrise technique dont l'imagination ne saurait se passer. Car ce qui fait de lui un artiste vraiment complet, c'est qu'il n'est pas seulement un inventeur de formes et de décors: il est aussi un impeccable ouvrier. Dans ses meilleurs ouvrages, la finesse et la justesse de l'exécution fournissent toujours à la fantaisie l'indispensable soutien:

Mieux qu'aucun maître inscrit au livre de maîtrise,

J'ai serti le rubis, la perle et le béril,
Tordu l'anse d'un vase et martelé sa frise.

Datant de cette première période, on peut encore voir chez Lalique une grande boucle de brillants que diversifie la tache de quelques pierres colorées, et dont les rinceaux encadrent la nudité d'une figurine ciselée dans l'or. Ce qui nous frappe aujourd'hui dans un tel bijou et dans d'autres semblables, c'est que l'artiste n'est pas encore entièrement libre. Qui d'ailleurs aurait l'injustice de s'en étonner? Le plus fort ne saurait s'affranchir d'emblée, surtout quand il vit au milieu des esclaves. Lalique est encore préoccupé par les anciens styles, par les motifs de la Renaissance ou du XVIII^e siècle, qu'il essaie de rajeunir au moyen d'un détail heureusement trouvé. Mais, dès ce moment, malgré les entraves qui gênent son inspiration, on devine ce qui fera la beauté de son œuvre future: la volonté d'emprunter à la nature les éléments du décor et le sentiment de la couleur.

Les contemporains ne s'y trompèrent pas, non plus ceux qui crièrent à l'hérésie que ceux qui saluèrent avec joie une ère nouvelle. Lalique fut en effet compris de bonne heure, sinon par le public, du moins par l'élite de la critique. On est heureux de rencontrer ici un écrivain dont c'est l'honneur d'avoir su découvrir et soutenir, dès leurs débuts, la plupart des talents originaux de ce temps: M. Roger Marx. Hommage rendu à l'artiste par ses pairs, les pages sympathiques et pénétrantes écrites dès 1897 par Emile Gallé et l'étude publiée en 1898 par M. Henri Vever ne furent pas un moins précieux encouragement.

Ce n'était pas une audace ordinaire que de prétendre déposséder le diamant d'une domination longue, ab-

solue, presque exclusive. L'entreprise était peut-être une des plus difficiles parmi celles qui visent à réformer le goût d'un peuple et les habitudes traditionnelles d'un métier. Cet homme, dont l'apparence était celle d'un doux, d'un rêveur aux manières conciliantes, risquait de s'aliéner cette portion du public dont l'influence est si grande et l'esprit si indocile à la persuasion, en s'attaquant à l'amour séculaire des femmes pour ce qui brille et pour ce qui coûte très cher. "C'est aux maris que mes bijoux plaisent, plutôt qu'à leurs femmes!" Cette boutade n'exprimait qu'une impression passagère. Cependant elle évoque le souvenir de résistances qui n'ont pas encore entièrement disparu. Le diamant conserve des fidèles. Mais, s'il est vrai, comme notre fatuité masculine s'en vante, que les femmes se parent pour nous plaire, n'est-il pas permis de croire que les dernières conversions ne se feront plus guère attendre?

Lalique veut que le bijou cesse d'être, ce qu'il fut si longtemps, un simple support de la pierre précieuse, un moyen, par lui-même sans intérêt, d'agencer sur le costume féminin le millionnaire diamant ou la perle richissime. La valeur vénale de la pierre étant désormais secondaire, l'artiste peut faire œuvre de créateur, par l'imagination des formes expressives, par la composition des lignes et des couleurs. Non seulement il rénove ainsi les bijoux dont la vogue est aussi constante qu'immémoriale : bagues, colliers, diadèmes, broches, boucles, agrafes ; mais il n'a pas craint d'imposer aux femmes des types nouveaux ou abandonnés depuis longtemps, le pendant ou la plaque de corsage, et c'est lui qui a ramené dans le domaine de l'art ces deux objets qui se prêtèrent sous sa main à tant de combinaisons heureuses : l'épingle et le peigne. Pourtant le bijou, même régénéré et enrichi, ne pouvait suffire à satisfaire son besoin d'invention. Rien de ce qui constitue le décor de notre existence quotidienne ne lui a paru indigne de son intérêt : grilles, portes, rampes d'escalier, lanternes, lustres, vitrines, étoffes brodées, miroirs, flacons, étuis, coffrets, les ouvrages les plus divers ont tour à tour requis sa curiosité et reçu son empreinte. Mais le tour naturel de son esprit et la nuance particulière de sa sensibilité semblaient l'attirer davantage vers la femme, vers ce qui peut parer sa grâce ou embellir les menus utensiles dont elle aime à s'entourer.

Parmi les matières jusqu'alors dédaignées, il n'en est aucune dont son goût de coloriste n'ait su tirer parti ; il réhabilite la mystérieuse opale, aux profondeurs laiteuses qu'illumine un feu furtif, vert ou orangé, la pierre de lune, le cristal de roche, le simple verre émaillé ou gravé. L'émail lui-même le passionne aujourd'hui, et il lui demande des secrets inconnus. Sur la panse d'un vase ou sur le couvercle d'un coffret, il commande à cette substance magnifique et rebelle, il la pétrir comme la glaise du sculpteur, il la conduit comme la couleur du peintre.

Dans le répertoire immense de la Nature, animaux, végétaux, minéraux, il n'oublie aucune forme, et les plus humbles ne sont pas les moins aimées. La plante est pour lui un trésor inépuisable. Elle lui fournit à la fois l'arabesque du décor et sa couleur. N'est-ce pas une tradition bien française que cet amour de l'ornementation florale qui a donné leur parure aux chapiteaux de nos cathédrales ? Comme les vieux sculpteurs du XIII^e siècle, aux artificieuses créations des jardiniers, il préfère les fleurs modestes et charmantes qui croissent en liberté dans les champs, les plantes grimpantes qui revêtent les façades ou les toits du village. C'est peut-être la fleur qui lui fait comprendre les oiseaux, fleurs vivantes et volantes, et les insectes, dont la vie est liée à celle des fleurs, papillons, libellules, bourdons, abeilles. Peu à peu le règne animal tout entier lui est révélé ; il explore la flore et la faune des mers, avec leurs algues et leurs poissons. Et comme il n'y a pas pour notre éducation gréco-latine d'art complet sans anthropomorphisme, dès l'origine il introduit dans ses compositions la forme humaine, la forme féminine surtout : un profil, un masque ou le geste entier du corps se mêlent avec aisance et sans surcharge aux autres éléments de la décoration. Certes il ne s'interdit pas de faire appel aux êtres chimériques imaginés par les mythologies anciennes, sans s'astreindre d'ailleurs à un respect trop exact des types traditionnels. Telle, cette sirène à deux queues, taillée dans le verre, et cernée d'un reflet marin qui semble renvoyé par les

émeraudes dont elle est sertie. Mais le plus souvent le monde réel lui suffit.

C'est par son interprétation décorative de la nature que René Lalique a le mieux traduit sa personnalité d'artiste et son émotion de poète, en même temps qu'il donnait à ses confrères le plus salutaire exemple. Car tout est là : comment, d'une fleur, d'un oiseau, d'un poisson, faire le thème d'une composition qui soit un bijou : collier, bracelet, pendant, épingle, ou quelque bibelot précieux : coupe-papier, cachet, coffret, vase ?

Il y a une esthétique particulière de l'art décoratif dont les règles, pour être incompréhensibles du plus grand nombre, ne sont ni moins impérieuses ni moins essentielles. L'artiste qui demande à un fruit, à une fleur, l'inspiration d'un décor doit les regarder avec d'autres yeux que le peintre de natures mortes. Les admirables dessins de Pisanello et d'Albert Dürer ne sauraient servir son projet, car ils ont leur fin en eux-mêmes ; les animaux et les plantes y sont étudiés, avec une sorte de religion passionnée, pour leur beauté propre et pour leur caractère individuel. Au contraire, un Lalique, tout en se livrant à l'émotion ressentie devant le fragment de la Création qu'il a choisi pour modèle, ne cesse pas de penser au bijou, au bibelot, dont la forme, la matière, la destination sont les données du problème à résoudre. Sous prétexte de simplification décorative, les esprits trop théoriques aboutissent à des abstractions desséchées. Le miracle nécessaire est d'attraper le style sans tomber dans la stylisation.

À côté de l'instinct, qui est le don primordial du créateur, il y a chez Lalique une intelligence ouverte à toutes les curiosités. Il a interrogé l'art de tous les temps ; il n'a ignoré ni les Grecs, ni les Assyriens, ni les Egyptiens, ni les Gothiques, ni les Japonais. Et, quoi qu'en disent de nos jours certains pauvres d'esprit infatués de leur ignorance, cette culture ne lui a rien fait perdre de son originalité. D'ailleurs, si l'enseignement des écoles et des académies est parfois néfaste, parce qu'il n'est qu'une transmission de formules, l'artiste véritable, sûr du don inaliénable qu'il a reçu de la Nature, ne fait que remplir un devoir envers lui-même en se donnant une éducation qui enrichira son expérience sans altérer sa sensibilité personnelle. L'admiration des maîtres est une nourriture qui tue les faibles et fortifie les forts.

L'impulsion la plus efficace vint à Lalique des Japonais. Il est remarquable que leur influence, qui s'exerça sur plus d'un parmi nos meilleurs contemporains, ne fut jamais nuisible, précisément parce qu'elle nous révélait une civilisation, des mœurs, des conventions même, trop étrangères à nos habitudes pour encourager un désir d'imitation servile. C'est des Japonais que Lalique a reçu le secret de ces interprétations de la faune et de la flore qui gardent le privilège de la vie sans être jamais des copies littérales. Il a compris sans imiter. Ses facultés d'invention et sa sensibilité le défendaient d'ailleurs contre les dangers du pastiche, et c'est parce qu'elles sont toujours pensées par un homme de chez nous, créées pour nos goûts et nos usages, que certaines de ses œuvres méritent d'être mises en parallèle avec les plus précieuses créations des Japonais. Quel collectionneur ne s'honorerait de posséder dans ses vitrines cet admirable poisson dont la tête émerge, tandis que son corps écailleux et souple se perd dans la glauque transparence de l'eau, ou cette grosse mouche dont les ailes diaphanes, mues par un ressort, s'écartent comme des ailes et comme la double valve d'un couvercle ? Cependant, sculptés l'un et l'autre dans la corne où se joue un léger émail, tous deux sont d'abord des objets d'usage : coupe-papier fait pour la commodité du lecteur autant que pour la satisfaction de son goût, boîte à poudre ou bonbonnière propre à recevoir le minuscule arsenal dont une femme élégante ne se sépare pas. L'heureuse trouvaille du motif, la vérité unie au caractère décoratif, la beauté que le travail confère à la matière, la merveille d'une exécution prodigieusement finie sans petitesse, l'ingéniosité de l'agencement, font de ces bibelots et de maint autre des œuvres d'un art supérieur et complet. Autant que l'œil, la main d'un véritable amateur prend plaisir à les caresser et jouit de leur perfection.

La hardiesse de l'artiste, que n'effraie aucune tentative nouvelle, ne donne jamais, ou presque jamais,

dans les excentricités vaines par où les médiocres croient affirmer leur originalité. Le fil d'Ariane qui l'a guidé dans le redoutable labyrinthe, c'est le goût, le goût naturel le plus sûr et le plus fin. Sa palette est somptueuse, mais toujours sobre : il aime les harmonies délicates, ton sur ton, et, dans l'invention des formes, sa fantaisie obéit aux ordres de la logique.

On pourrait cependant distinguer dans son tempérament des tendances qui semblent presque contraires. Il est amoureux à la fois du dessin et de la couleur. Il y a en lui un romantique et un classique, ou, pour mieux dire, une sensibilité romantique et une volonté classique. Mais n'a-t-on pas vu ailleurs que cette lutte entre des principes opposés peut, dans des natures privilégiées, favoriser l'éclosion de fruits singulièrement savoureux ? Un nom suffit, un des plus chers parmi ceux de notre XIX^e siècle français : celui de Chassériau, réconciliant dans un art personnel et charmant les deux champions ennemis, également aimés, Ingres et Delacroix. Et n'est-ce pas l'ambition des meilleurs que de vouloir traduire toute l'inquiétude moderne par des moyens d'une simplicité classique ? C'est là le vrai sens du conseil, souvent mal compris, d'André Chénier :

"Sur des pensées nouveaux faisons des vers antiques."

Lequel d'entre nos poètes du XIX^e siècle a sur des pensées plus "nouveau" fait des vers plus "antiques," si ce n'est Baudelaire, honni comme un insurgé par les pseudo-classiques de son temps ? Avoir des pensées nouveaux, c'est à dire penser et sentir par soi-même, regarder l'univers et la vie, les êtres et les choses comme si l'on était le premier homme à la naissance du monde, et, sans déflorer son émotion de son frémissement intime, lui donner une valeur générale par la beauté, la force et la simplicité de l'expression, voilà le rêve plus ou moins conscient des plus grands artistes, l'idéal où s'identifient les inévitables contradictoires : subjectif et objectif, couleur et dessin, romantisme et classicisme.

Dans le précieux microcosme qui est le royaume de René Lalique, ce noble désir semble gouverner les efforts et le développement de l'artiste. A mesure qu'il devient plus sûr de ses moyens et de sa technique, et tout en gardant, Dieu merci, le romantisme instinctif de sa sensibilité, il répudie de plus en plus le romantisme de l'expression ; il atteint enfin à la perfection de son art en réalisant le programme si beau et si ardu : vérité et style, originalité de la conception et pureté classique de la forme.

Quoi de plus romantique pour le sentiment, et de plus classique pour l'exécution, que la broche du "Baiser" ? Utilisant la transparence du cristal, un artifice ingénieux fait que les deux têtes rapprochées apparaissent à des plans différents, l'une dans la lumière et l'autre dans l'ombre. Une devise qu'aurait choisie Emile Gallé entoure la tranche d'entrelacs discrets :

"Je rêve de baisers qui demeurent toujours."

Mais le goût de l'artiste en pleine maîtrise se traduit par la simplicité de la composition, la sobriété de l'ornementation, l'accord candide et presque virginal du cristal et de l'argent.

Ce n'est pas à un tel bijou qu'on pourrait adresser le reproche par lequel on a souvent essayé de diminuer les succès de Lalique : "Bijoux de vitrine !" De ce que l'ouvrage d'un orfèvre ou d'un joaillier possède assez de beauté pour tenir sa place à côté des chefs d'œuvre du passé dans un musée ou une galerie particulière, ce n'est pas une raison pour qu'il ne soit pas parfaitement adapté à un service d'usage. Car précisément ces productions des maîtres d'autrefois que nous sommes fiers de conserver aujourd'hui dans nos vitrines, elles parèrent, colliers ou diadèmes, la tête ou le cou des femmes, elles figurèrent, miroirs ou coffrets, sur la table des gynécées ou des boudoirs. D'ailleurs l'objection appartient à une catégorie connue. Toute œuvre originale et nouvelle rencontre une opposition dont les phases sont presque toujours les mêmes : d'abord l'indifférence qui ignore, puis l'hostilité qui condamne, enfin la première concession, encore contrainte et qui s'exprime par une restriction : "C'est très bien, mais ce n'est pas de la peinture, ce n'est pas de la musique, ce n'est pas du bijou..." M. Lalique aurait tort de

s'inquiéter : c'est la résistance suprême, qui annonce le triomphe proche et inévitable.

Ce monde charmant, chimérique et réel, où se meut la fantaisie somptueuse et tendre, un peu mélancolique aussi, de l'artiste, quelle tentation de le décrire, pour qui saurait faire rivaliser les mots avec les cabochons de l'émailleur et la palette du lapidaire ! Des danses nues ou voilées passent dans un jardin de rêve, dont le ciel lunaire est traversé par le vol velouté des chauves-souris ; la queue ocellée des paons traîne sur les terrasses de marbre comme une robe de femme ; près de l'eau d'un bassin, où glisse la nef blanche des cygnes, les fleurs et les plantes, riches ou humbles, princesses ou bergères, penchent, érigent, traînent, enlacent leurs grappes, leurs corolles, leurs clochettes, leurs calices, leur pulpe grasse ou leur aérienne légèreté, leur diaprure ou leur pâleur. Le jeu ne serait pas sans agrément pour l'écrivain, ni même peut-être, s'il était bien joué, pour le lecteur. Mais il est vain. Quand on s'est privé d'un tel plaisir, ne rend-on pas un meilleur et plus juste hommage à l'auteur de ces petites merveilles dont les mots ne peuvent donner une idée, en étudiant les sources, les principes et l'évolution de son art, en essayant de considérer son œuvre du point de vue historique qui sera celui de la postérité ?

PAUL JAMOT.

ILYÁ AND THE NIGHTINGALES.

A RUSSIAN FOLK-STORY.

IT was Easter morn, and strong young Ilyá of Múrom, the son of the peasant Iván, stood with many, praying in the great church. And amongst Ilyá's solemn Easter vows were these : First that he would sing at the High Mass that same Easter day in Royal Kiév ; second, that he would go to Royal Kiév by the straight road. And then Ilyá vowed besides that on the way he would stain neither hand nor sword with wretched Tatar blood ; nor would he shoot a single fiery dart before he got to Kiév. So he hastened from the great church and saddled his rough bay horse, the staunch, good Clouddrop, and decked him richly and gaily to ride to the worshipful feasts of Royal Kiév, where the Fair Red Sun Prince Vladimir so gladly kept his Easter. All Múrom came forth to watch Ilyá depart. But as soon as he mounted the good Clouddrop, he was gone beyond sight. His flight was like a wraith of thin fine snow driven along the steppe by the whirling winter wind. Staunch good Clouddrop skimmed over steppe and plain ; the brave horse jumped from mountain to mountain ; and sprang lustily from one hill to another. And when they paused, rider and horse—young Ilyá hewed a forest to the ground, and he raised a sacred cross, and on it he left the words, written clear and bold : Ilyá of Múrom, the Kazák, rides to Royal Kiév on a hero's quest.

It was after this that Ilyá met a vast swarm of Tatars, so vast that the hare might not course, nor the falcon fly round about them ; and the steam from their horses' flanks rose up so dense, that it hid the brightness of sun and of moon. Ilyá bethought him of his Easter vows. "Every man may take an oath," he said, "but how indeed shall he always keep it ?" With that he bent quickly in his saddle, and pulled up a sturdy oak tree from the damp earth ; and as he rode through the horde of forty thousand wretched Tatars, he waved the great tree and swung it with all his might. The Tatars fell like a field of sickled corn, and Clouddrop trampled them down, and not one was left to continue their breed. This happened on the way, outside the city of Chérnigov. When the merchants and soldier-maidens and heroes of this city saw the deed of Ilyá, they besought and prayed him to be their Tsar, their King, or at any rate their general.*

"I have well earned my rights, I know," said Ilyá of Múrom, "yet I want them not. I leave you as you were. Show me only the straight road to Royal Kiév."

"The straight road", answered the merchants, "is but five hundred versts, and the way round a full

* Voivóde—an old Russian name, now obsolete, for a leader of an army.

thousand; it is wiser though to journey by the way round. In the straight road lie the barriers of the lofty mountains and the wide river Smoródina, with its black bogs, and there too Nightingale the robber, the Wizard Bird, has his nest built upon seven spreading oaks. When Nightingale whistles, the forest is bowed down, leaves and grass wither, and horses and riders shrink and die at the blast. Therefore, young Ilyá of Múrom, go not by this straight road."

Now this was the very way that Ilyá chose. Clouddrop scaled the lofty mountains, and soared like a hawk over the tall, dreaming forests, and at the river Smoródina the staunch good beast cleared it with the swiftest bound. But when Nightingale the robber, the Wizard Bird, thrust his iron beak from the great seven-oaked nest and whistled and hissed, at last Clouddrop was daunted and fell trembling and quivering on his knees.

"Grass-bag, food for a wolf," jeered Ilyá, "hast never yet heard the pipe of a nightingale, nor the hiss of a snake?" At this Clouddrop rose sharp and staggered to his four feet, and Ilyá fondled the staunch good horse. Then he bethought him of his other vow, that he would shoot no fiery dart before he reached Royal Kiév. So he quickly plucked a twig from a near-by willow, and fitting it in his bow he shot it straight at Robber Nightingale's left eye. Down fell the Wizard Bird to the damp earth, like a heap of winnowed grain. Ilyá joyously fastened him by the beak to his stirrup, and quietly rode on till he came to the robber's court, planted round about with green gardens and fair orchards, all gay with blossom and bloom.

"Ai! ai! Lady Mother. Look, look!" cried the children, "our father brings us a man and a horse to peck at and devour."

"Nay," said Eléna, Nightingale's witch daughter, "it's strong young Ilyá of Múrom, and he it is who has our father fast."

Nightingale's children swelled and shook with rage at their sister's words. "Let us turn ourselves to ravens," they shrieked and crowed, "and tear this peasant with our iron beaks, and throw the pieces of his soft white body to rot in river and bog."

But their father shouted "Harm him not, harm him not! That were true foolishness. Go all of you rather to our treasure vaults and fetch gold and silver and heaped-up baskets of our finest pearls. If we give them to this young Ilyá of Múrom, the mighty Kazák, then only will he let me free once more."

"Nightingale robber," shouted young Ilyá, "shouldst thou offer me the whole wide world's full measure of riches I would not set thee free, bad old rascal and thief that thou art. But to Royal Kiév come thou, and there, mayhap, in the city of the Fair Red Sun Vladimir, shalt thou find pardon for thy sins this glad Eastertide. At least, if true penitence and sorrow be thine."

Staunch Clouddrop pranced gaily, and the Wizard Bird at Ilyá's stirrup had to dance and hop along nimbly whether he would or no; and thus they rode into Royal Kiév. Prince Vladimir, with his generals, was already in God's church at the high Easter Mass. So Clouddrop was left to guard Nightingale in the fair prince's courtyard while Ilyá hastened to the church. When Mass was over, Prince Vladimir kindly bade the young stranger to his worshipful feast, and asked whence he came and who he might well be.

"I am only the son of peasants," replied Ilyá. "This morn I stood in Múrom church, and early Mass was just ended when I started hither by the straight road." At this the heroes round the royal board and the Fair Red Sun Vladimir himself all looked amiss.

"What is this bragging and lying on Easter day?" asked Vladimir. "By the straight road no man has ventured here for a whole long lifetime. For there are the cursed Tatar hordes and the lofty mountains, and the wide uncrossable river, Smoródina, in the midst of bog and forest. There too is the Robber Nightingale, with nine fierce sons and his witch daughter Eléna."

"If I may answer thee truly, Fair Red Sun Vladimir, Prince of Royal Kiév," retorted young Ilyá, "by just that very way I came. And at this moment Robber Nightingale sits bound fast by his iron beak to my

staunch good Clouddrop's stirrup in the courtyard." When the Prince and his courtiers and generals heard this marvel they outran each other to the courtyard, stumbling in their haste. Surely there he brooded, Nightingale the Robber, wicked and wise, with one eye on Kiév, and the other on Chérnigov.

"Now whistle and hiss, evil bird, that we may know thee," cried Vladimir. "Yes, whistle and hiss," commanded Ilyá the hero, "but see that thou doest it gently, gently, that no harm be done in Royal Kiév this glad Eastertide."

Nightingale opened his iron beak. To be gentle he knew not how; and why forsooth should he spare Royal Kiév? So he whistled and hissed with his whole full force. At his cry those who died were too many to number; the city trembled and tottered, and although Ilyá had shielded Vladimir under his arm, yet the Fair Red Sun Prince lay as if dead for hours.

"For thee can be no holy pardon; this I tell thee plainly, evil, evil bird," roared strong young Ilyá of Múrom. Then Clouddrop galloped gallantly with his brave rider far out into the open steppe, with Nightingale at his stirrup; and there it was that Ilyá shot the burning, fiery dart from his bow sharp into the robber's breast. It must be told too that before Ilyá rode further he chopped the Wizard Bird's beak to atoms, and in his anger he scattered his bones in powder on the steppe, where it spread like a dust of poppy seeds. From much evil, though, can come much good, else the world must have died long ago; and from those seeds of darkness and night, strangely enough, so say our peasant fathers—whether it be true or no, who of us can tell?—behold there came forth that summer time a myriad of those gentle little nightingales who fill our southern Russian land with their full-voiced song, neither sad nor glad, but sweet, sweet beyond all compare.

BAREFOOT.

A GOOD many savants and doctors have preached the virtue of bare feet at various times. But it is futile work. Barefoot is a convention for the extreme of poverty and wretchedness; the suggestion that it is comfortable in the present and healthful in the future is waved aside as a grotesque contradiction not worth notice. Some years ago indeed it did gain acceptance for a while. Barefoot children might be seen occasionally, and sandals were almost common. But it was fashion rather than conviction which tempted parents to adopt so bold an eccentricity; anyhow, it has nearly vanished. Before the Revolution, however, the great French Doctor Alphonse Leroy pointed out that young children always rid themselves of any covering on their feet, if able; and he concluded that they obey an instinct of which wise parents should take heed. Everyone who has to do with babies makes the same observation now, but mothers seem only to conclude that the coverings should be attached in such manner that they cannot be slipped off. The action is due simply to that love of mischief, or "contrariness", which is the leading characteristic of children. We have learned, however—those who read and think, at any rate—that a baby has instincts and powers beyond our comprehension, beyond belief sometimes if they were not proved; as, for example, that of clinging to a stick and supporting the whole weight of the body thus for as much as two and a half minutes when but an hour old. It was Dr. Louis Robinson who observed this astonishing feat, which every parent can verify. Leroy supposed that an instinctive consciousness of the value of fresh air to the feet leads children to kick off their shoes. Very likely. It is worth note that Lycurgus forbade the covering of boys' or girls' feet in any way before the age of puberty. Whether Lycurgus ever lived does not matter; no one disputes that the laws attributed to him were of immemorial antiquity, and we are of those who devoutly believe in the wisdom of the ancients in matters of this kind.

But it is not only babies who long to feel the air about their feet. The same impulse moves every one of us, though we have learned to submit. It asserts itself nightly when we remove our boots, often with an audible sigh of relief. Even though they are old and

easy, it is pleasant to be rid of them. Slippers are necessary for comfort, large ones too, which admit the air. Of all our unreasonable articles of dress none defies the laws of nature so openly as boots. Sir Henry Thompson declared, in a lecture given some twenty years ago, that most of the constitutional ailments which afflict us in age take their origin in the practice of casing the feet with leather material, almost impervious, in youth. Few heeded the warning apparently, for one sees children in shoes, and even boots, at an earlier and still earlier age.

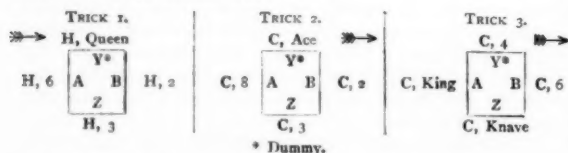
The fashion noted some years ago of going barefoot or in sandals may have been started by Father Kniepp. One hears little of this Bavarian priest since his death, but they do not forget him on the Continent. There is a vast building, perhaps more than one, at Worishöfen, where his system is still followed. But the edition of his pamphlet which we possess is the fiftieth, printed in 1888, and it is an English translation; we may speculate on the numbers of the German original. For thirty or forty years Father Kniepp had been revered in his own country as a semi-inspired healer before the world heard of him; then he cured an Imperial personage, and forthwith his renown spread from New York to St. Petersburg, if not from China to Peru. But the treatment was as simple as could be. Avowedly it sought to restore "the natural conditions of human life", a process which in effect meant "hardening" by the affliction of cold water at unusual and unexpected moments, and, above all, going barefoot. Notable processions there used to be at early morning, when Imperial and Royal Highnesses, princes and millionaires, male and female, tramped without shoes and stockings through the grass-grown village street. If there had been a fall of snow they had special reason to congratulate themselves, and the exercise was prolonged. When the grass dried, after breakfast, they took a wholesome promenade on flagstones continually sluiced with water. No small proportion of the most distinguished personages of Europe went through this ordeal daily for a month or two, or even six, and all agreed apparently that release from the tyranny of leather for that time had cured them as by miracle. "Oh, what a good law it would be", cried Mansfield Parkyns, after thirty years in Abyssinia, "that should forbid the use of shoes and stockings all over the world!"

INFERENCES AT BRIDGE.—V.

A VERY good instance of the sort of inference that can be drawn from what the dealer does not do is the following, quoted from an Illustrative Hand in "Bridge Abridged". The dealer, Z, at the score of love all, passed the declaration. The dummy declared No Trumps, and put down:

Hearts—Ace, queen
Diamonds—King, 9, 3
Clubs—Ace, queen, 10, 5, 4
Spades—Ace, king, 6

The first three tricks were:



Now what inferences could be drawn from the way in which the dealer engineered this hand, or rather from the way in which he did not engineer it? Just study the dummy hand, a very strong one, for a moment, and ask yourself how you would have elected to go on with the game if you had been in the dealer's place, after winning the first trick with the queen of hearts. Does not the dealer's play at tricks 2 and 3 convey any information to you? If he had any card of entry in his own hand would he not have put himself in at once and have led the knave of clubs up to the ace, queen, 10 in dummy, so as to ensure every trick in that suit, if the king happened to lie right for him, with the certainty of winning the game, whether the finesse was successful or not? Instead of doing this he purposely

gave away one trick in the club suit, and thereby confessed his weakness. He could at once be marked with no card of entry in his own hand, and therefore the queen of spades and the ace and queen of diamonds were all against him, and either of his opponents, who did not hold any of these three cards, ought at once to have placed them in his partner's hand. Think what an advantage knowledge of this kind may give towards the end of a hand, to know for certain that your partner has a winning card or cards in a particular suit. You can put him in whenever you want to, or you can so arrange the game as to get him led up to, and you can discard from that suit with the greatest confidence, knowing that he can protect it; and yet to a large number of regular bridge players this is an altogether unexploited field of enterprise, the reason being that they fail to notice these inferences at the moment when the opportunity occurs. It is no earthly use trying to think back and to draw inferences from what occurred three or four tricks ago. These inferences must be drawn at the time and made a mental note of and remembered—that is the only way in which they will be of real practical use.

In a No Trump game, when the dealer holds up a winning card, generally the ace, of the suit originally opened, until the last possible moment, this proceeding should give great encouragement to the opponents. It shows that the game is not a certainty. The dealer is afraid of the establishment of that suit, and there are certainly one or two winning cards of other suits out against him. On the other hand, when he is in a hurry to win the first trick, as for instance by putting on the queen for the ace, queen, and another in dummy, instead of letting it come up to his own hand, it generally signifies that there is another suit of which he is more afraid, so he tries to prevent the third hand winning the first trick for fear that he will branch into the other suit.

It may be regarded as certain that the dealer will go straight for the game, without taking any risks, as soon as he can see a certainty, or even a strong probability of winning it; therefore, when you find that he is playing a weak game, by taking deep finesses, or possibly by putting you in with your own suit so as to make you open another suit up to him, you should harden your heart and play boldly for a better result than the bare saving of the game.

Most No Trump hands are either very good or very bad. Either the dummy hand nicks in well with the dealer's, or it is of very little use to him. If it nicks in well success is practically assured, but if it does not nick in well it sometimes becomes a rather dangerous asset. If the dummy puts down five cards of a suit in which the dealer is very weak, it undoubtedly affords him a certain amount of protection, but it may also afford the adversaries very useful information. If the dealer carefully avoids that suit, and perhaps discards from it, the missing high cards in it are plainly marked against him, and, towards the close of the hand, it may be of supreme importance for one of his adversaries to know how he can put his partner in. Suppose that the dummy has the queen and four small clubs, if the dealer does not touch that suit it is quite certain that he has not got both the ace and king, and very probable that he has neither of them. If the dummy holds queen, knave, 10, or queen, knave, 9 of a suit of which you have the king, and the dealer does not lead the queen when he gets into dummy's hand, you can safely conclude that he has not got the ace himself. These inferences could be multiplied indefinitely. The way to make use of them is to ask yourself how the dealer would be likely to play the hand if he held certain named cards, and, when he does not play as you imagine he would do if he had them, to make up your mind at once that he has not got them.

There is one notable ruse which is worth mentioning, as it is occasionally made use of by good players. When the dealer, in a No Trump game, is absolutely undefended in one suit, both in his own hand and in his dummy, and he is fortunate enough not to have had that suit opened, he will sometimes lead the highest card of it at once from dummy, directly he gets in, with the object of stalling his opponents off it by inducing them to believe that he has great strength in it himself.

You should be careful not to be deceived by this artifice. It is nothing but a bluff and rather a desperate bluff, but I have known it to be brought off with great success on more than one occasion. Weak players are very easily put off by this manoeuvre, but the strong player will generally see through it, and, as soon as the dummy hand gets the lead again the situation is bound to be disclosed, as he cannot afford to do it a second time.

Correct inference is nothing more than the card sense highly developed. To some players, some few players, it comes naturally, to others it comes as the result of much practice and of close observation; but it is quite open to anybody who will take the trouble to cultivate it assiduously, to watch the fall of the cards carefully, and to draw deductions at the time.

W. DALTON.

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

SOUTH AFRICA: THE END OF THE MATTER.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

13 April, 1908.

SIR,—Recent news of South Africa from a perfectly informed source shows the extent to which the present Government's reactionary policy out there has fructified. The colony of Natal is simply drifting; thousands of English families have left, and there are said to be two thousand places of business to let in Durban alone. While the distress in "loyal Natal" is thus great, matters are even worse in Johannesburg and Cape Town, where the destitution among the English is difficult to describe.

All this entirely bears out the powerful and impressive article, entitled "The Loss of British South Africa", which appears in the current number of the "Empire Review", and which any inhabitant of these islands who still esteems sense, judgment, and honour will do well to read. The article is merely signed "Diplomatist", but whoever the writer may be the equal ability and moderation of the author of this mournful dirge are unquestionable. He shows how complete is the dominion in Cape Colony, the Transvaal, and the Orange River Colony of the "Bond", and of all that those four letters mean; while he suggests action which, even at this late hour, might, he considers, avert an otherwise inevitable disaster.

The topic is, however, still unfashionable. We were told when the present Government first took office, and began carefully to displace, brick by brick, the edifice which Lord Milner had laboriously constructed, that it was unpatriotic to cavil further, that we should trust the Government, and trust the Boers, and wait to see the outcome. We have trusted, we have waited, we now see the outcome, and in view of present conditions it scarcely seems that, even in those earlier days, we were wisely counselled to stay our criticism—in any case the time for doing so has now passed.

Again we are told by the supporters of the Opposition that the Opposition is not yet ready to "come in", that the mischievous qualities of the present Government must be further displayed to their fellow-countrymen, and that, since bad business times are ahead, it is better that the odium of these bad times should discredit the Radicals. The mere expression of such opinions shows to what depths of sophistry we have recently and rapidly sunk.

The "leaders" of this nation are two or three groups of powerful men, "ins" and "outs", who for the most part do not appear to perceive that it is base and vulpine to neglect their duty for party reasons—party reasons too often merely meaning private gain, of one sort or another.

As one contemplates it all a vision rises to the mind in which these office seekers and holders seem for the moment to fade away. One stands again, as one stood a few years ago, in the bright sunshine, on the edge of the Niagara River, and on its surface above the Falls floats the carcase of a dead ox, swollen and distended

and drawn rapidly along by the stream towards the Falls. And upon the carcase a number of rats are busily eating into the flesh, unconscious of the approaching doom which will shortly precipitate the carcase and themselves to inevitable destruction.

BARTLE C. FRERE.

SHUFFLING THE CABINET.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—One, among many others, I have been scanning Monday's paper with more than usual interest. I am only an onlooker, and as a class we rarely express our views in public, not because we have nothing to say, but because we are sensible of the fact that no one cares a brass farthing for our opinions, and, except perhaps during an impending General Election, it is no one's business to ascertain them. Glancing down the column of Ministers, each with his new office and salary placed neatly in front of his name, it is with mingled surprise and amusement that I note the various changes and ask myself, What on earth do these gentlemen know of the respective duties of their Departments? One would not for a moment propose competitive examinations for Cabinet Ministers, the results might be more entertaining to the general public than pleasing to the candidates; yet it appears an extraordinary anomaly that whereas it requires long apprenticeship and considerable aptitude for almost every profession, the only qualifications needed for the highest positions in the land are too often push, interest, and the power of making yourself unpleasant. Not that ability goes without its reward; no Prime Minister would be so foolish as entirely to ignore this consideration, and few would challenge the right of Mr. Lloyd George to the Chancellorship of the Exchequer. But if success leads to certain promotion, failure seems an equally sure way of climbing the same ladder. Therefore it follows as a consequence that if a man has singularly failed at the Board of Education, he must be eminently suited to direct the policy of the Navy. Of course, we all know, his predecessor at the Admiralty had to be got rid of in the least painful manner, and that soothing way of kicking upstairs and presenting at the same time a snug little income for a purely ornamental post is a useful method adopted by each successive Prime Minister. The House of Lords, far from being abolished, is to be enriched by two members of a Government that has sworn war to the death with the Upper Chamber. It is curious how these little things are forgotten when they serve a convenient purpose. Personal pride is a rare virtue among Cabinet Ministers, and one wonders how long it will be before the new Chancellor of the Exchequer accepts this dignity. Perhaps the greatest surprise of all is the appointment of Colonel Seely. It is not altogether a compliment to our colonies to turn the Under-Secretaryship of their Department into a sort of political rat-hole into which deserters from the Unionist ranks may creep and enjoy a nest nicely lined with bank-notes. The power of acquiring the art of "Enfant Terrible" is decidedly one to be cultivated if you wish to qualify for office.

To "those who look on" these constant games of general post on the Ministerial bench and the shuffling and reshuffling that takes place hardly seem to the advantage of the nation. No sooner has the head of a Department gained a little practical experience in one particular branch of political economy than he is hurriedly dropped out or removed to a more exalted sphere, and the knowledge that might have become valuable is lost. It follows as a natural consequence that Ministers who have held office for any length of time have tried their hands at most things, from the regulating of the traffic of London to the remodelling of the Army or Imperial Exchequer on a sound basis. The result of all these changes is that the outsider is treated to the rather grotesque spectacle of various Ministers getting up one after the other and excusing themselves on the ground that "for the present" they know nothing. This is becoming almost as useful a method for a Government to mark time as the more antiquated one of appointing a Royal Commission. The answer to all this is that the permanent

officials and their staff really run the whole show, that Ministers are but the nominal responsible heads, and that the principal use for their existence is to provide Aunt Sallies for the cock-shies of the Opposition.

As one of those who look on, the writer is aware that his opinions are of no value whatever; still lookers-on proverbially see the most of the game, and he offers his humble apologies if in these few remarks on our established methods of Cabinet making he has hit a nail or so on the head. Perhaps, after all, these anomalies are more humorous than harmful, and in the long run have worked fairly well. No doubt we shall jog along and muddle through somehow, we have long since given up expecting anything else, and it is to be seriously questioned if the majority of the people would not rather have it so.

Ex-M.P.

THE CENTURION SPEAKS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—I protest, by Mars, a most martial letter.

Odds boddinkins, pikes and spontoons, we have indeed Hiram here.

That Colonel Duncombe should prefer Mr. Sykes' English to mine, does not astonish me. I should have been astonished if he had preferred mine.

But, Sir, how rash these martialists are. "Utrumque paratus", the wielder of the sword and pen, as the Arabs say.

Did it never occur to Colonel Duncombe that his opinion on English is about as valuable as mine would be on military tactics?

I am not however concerned in defending my English, and I even expressly tried to defend myself against attack by writing the phrase "in such poor English as I can command".

Though we cannot meet very easily in the fields of literature and tactics, the ground of politics still lies open to us.

Colonel Duncombe asserts, in a most military way good enough for the barrack-room, but inconclusive in the world, that "most Englishmen agree" in preferring the "sentiments" of Mr. Sykes to mine.

Now, what those "sentiments" were I am at some difficulty to understand.

If, however, Colonel Duncombe intends to advance that most Englishmen hold Lord Cromer in higher esteem than General Gordon, I beg to differ with him.

General Gordon (a brother soldier of Colonel Duncombe's) was the kind of man that arises but seldom in the history of the world.

Without depreciating Lord Cromer's painstaking efforts, on his own level, does any Englishman with a spark of generosity in his composition pretend to compare the hero, who died fighting for what he conceived to be his duty, deserted by the Cromers, the Gladstones, Viscount Morley, and the rest, with the ordinary, if able and conscientious bureaucrat, who so far from dying has just retired on a comfortable old age pension?

But all statements, to be accepted by reasonable men, require some proof. Such proof Colonel Duncombe is far from giving. He merely says, "most Englishmen agree with me". How does he know it?

Does he go to public meetings? Has he ever been a parliamentary candidate? Not that I wish him to go through the degradation; but if he ever did present himself clothed in the white robe of the candidate, it would not be a good means of furthering his chances to compare Lord Cromer to General Gordon in the same breath.

I do not say "most Englishmen agree with me" I should indeed be very sorry if they did, and be afraid that the odium of popularity was about to descend, with all its vulgarising effects, upon me; but I venture to express the opinion that a very large number of Englishmen agree with me, and disagree with Colonel Duncombe and Mr. Sykes, if they prefer (as it would appear from their letters) the late Lord Cromer, for he is actually no longer in the land of the living, as regards his place in public estimation, to the immortal Gordon.

R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM.

"BLACKBERRY SAL."

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

9 April, 1908.

SIR,—I was much interested in an article on "Blackberry Sal" which appeared in your issue of 28 March, but I think the writer hardly did justice to "Blackberry Sal's" peculiarities. I imagine that few such characters are left in England, though they have probably been plentiful in the past, so that much of the interest attaching to her is that of a survival. One certainly always felt about her that two or three centuries ago she would have been considered a witch. The writer of the article speaks of her as a medicine-woman, which I suppose most witches were, but he does not mention her very real belief in the evil-eye. I have heard her speak of it myself, and the last time that I met her upon the road she told me, as an explanation of some of the physical ills which made her very evidently less active in tramping the country than she had formerly been, that her nearest neighbour (a woman who, I believe, was not only perfectly harmless, but also kind and attentive to "Blackberry Sal") had the evil-eye and that she had made her deaf, incapable of walking, and a few other things. If I recollect rightly, she said she had also bewitched a neighbour's cows.

With this superstition was mixed a curious kind of piety, which filled all her poems. At the end of her life she fell on bad days, for patients were few, so she sought help from the Lord. To get it she "fasted three days to the Lord", and again a second time she fasted that a sign might be sent her in the shape of a bird. The sign came, and help also in the shape of a small weekly pension from a group of ladies who were interested in her welfare.

Your correspondent hardly does justice to Alexandra D. M. McLeod's appearance. It was certainly remarkable. Her face was exactly like one of those guttapercha faces which take such odd shapes when squeezed; it was burnt a deep brown, and the cheeks were the exact colour of the fruit after which she was named. This was no doubt due to the heart weakness which made it imperative to induce her—much against her inclination—to enter the infirmary. Upon her head she always wore a large bonnet, something like a mob-cap, composed generally of many odds and ends—bits of ribbon and cretonne of bright colour mixed in with the soberer black. She owned one historical bonnet—its sole trimming was a large number of safety-pins!

The last time that I saw "Blackberry Sal" I paid her a visit on one of the very coldest days of this winter, when my friend and I found hot-water bottles and furs sufficient for an arctic expedition necessary to make a drive in an open carriage possible. "Blackberry Sal" was then no longer living in a hopper-house. She had been turned out in the hopping season, and had taken refuge in a bakehouse in a cottage-garden. We found her sitting on her bed (a mattress upon the bare floor) swathed in many garments, with no fire (a fire was only possible in the oven, and that was about on a level with her shoulders, so that she could have got little warmth from it), but a few red embers in the lid of a saucepan; at these she was trying, I fear unsuccessfully, to warm her feet. Beside her was an open Bible, all around her few belongings, and a small pile of firewood.

A great effort was made some time ago to get at her real history, but it was impossible to obtain anything but disjointed and vague accounts of her youth from her. I myself found her resting in a ditch one day last summer, and had a long talk with her. (She was a voluble talker, and once started she was not easily stopped.) I only got a very vague idea of what her story had been, for every now and then her memory seemed to play her false and she would break off in the middle of the narrative of events. She spoke of having been adopted by a lady and gentleman (she may have had a rather superior education, for she certainly knew a few words of French), of having caught small-pox in London, and of having been left there by them. She also spoke of her family having gone to the colonies, and of shipwrecks and such things, but we shall never know really what the beginning or the middle of that curious life was, and it is probable that we shall never come across her like again.

J. K. R. D. C.

REVIEWS.

EDWARD THE UNWRITTEN.

"The Dawn of the Constitution; or, The Reigns of Henry III. and Edward I." By Sir James H. Ramsay Bart. London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co. 1908. 12s. net.

THE caprice of history beggars explanation. It seems so natural to expect that every age will find the chronicler whom it deserves, that every great man will inspire a competent biographer. But Horace with his "Vixere fortes" was nearer to the truth. It may be that heroic names have seldom perished out of human memory. But how often has the name survived as the sole relic of a rare individuality! Those who might have expressed for posterity the spell which swayed contemporaries have been born too soon or too late, or too far from the centre of events. Even Johnson was well advanced in middle life before a happy accident acquainted him with Boswell; and greater men than Johnson have been less fortunate. There is a want of husbandry in nature's disposition of her forces. Except in one or two great epochs she sows the seed of genius sparsely and over a wide area, condemning the great writer to house with mediocrity, leaving the elect among her men of action at the mercy of the dullest scribblers. Of this unthriftiness the thirteenth century supplies some excellent examples. Matthew Paris, the one considerable historian of that age, was constrained to prove his quality by writing the annals of what is nearly the most depressing generation in the history of England. Had he lived at Palermo rather than S. Albans he would have found a worthy theme in the career of Frederic II., the Wonder of the World. Or if born a generation later he could have given us a living portrait of our greatest sovereign, the conqueror of Wales, the hammer of the Scots, the maker of the House of Commons.

The want of a Matthew Paris has been more injurious to Edward I. than to Frederic II. In Frederic there was a demonic element which the most prosaic chronicler could hardly overlook. Frederic resembled the meteor which catches every eye by its flaming passage through an alien atmosphere. A man whose greatest acts do violence to the prejudices of his age will never lack his critics. But the more sober genius of the Plantagenet moved with the times and followed where it seemed to lead them. Though Edward dashed himself in vain against the barrier of Scottish patriotism, though he maintained a losing battle against the centripetal tendencies of France, he was rarely out of touch with his own people. Even when he opposed his bishops on questions of clerical privilege, or when he cheated his barons of their jurisdictions, there was no question of war to the knife with Church or aristocracy. These and similar disputes were skirmishes which did not destroy the general harmony of King and people. Edward's subjects were on the whole in sympathy with his purpose and his methods. The accounts of him which they have left us are therefore dull as only panegyrics written by dull men can be. Of Edward the man we are singularly ill-informed. His movements can be traced almost from day to day; the minute details of his daily work are recorded in endless documents; and his principal achievements are written large upon the page of history. But the secret hopes and ambitions which make the statesman's inner life are in his case lost beyond recovery. We may make our conjectures; but the evidence admits of the most various conclusions.

Sir James Ramsay, Edward's latest biographer, is not remarkably successful in his attempts to unravel the enigma. Although Edward is the central figure in the volume now before us we fail to derive from it any clear conception of his personality. Sir James is an annalist of the most laborious description. Somewhere in his pages we may count on finding all important facts along with many that are unimportant. But his reflections on Edward's statesmanship merely underline the verdicts of earlier historians; and his diligence has discovered only a few traits of private character which have escaped more general notice. We learn

that Edward was unskilled in book-lore; that he could not write Latin, that his library was composed of six or seven volumes. The piety, bordering on sanctimoniousness, which he inherited from his father is amply illustrated. Sir James remarks that notwithstanding his long war with feudal principles of government the King's ideal of conduct was inspired by feudalism; himself a pattern of knightly accomplishments, he fought in tournaments and was the first English king, after Richard I., to license them on English soil. In spite of the patient craft which his diplomacy exhibits he was a man of a hot temper who never overlooked a personal affront. Essentially a legist, he lost respect for the law precisely in proportion as it made against his interests. He intimidated the legislature which he himself had called into existence. In fact, behind a calculated and prosperous policy, we find some evidences of a nature not wholly consistent or well balanced, of a statesman whose innovations were the wary surrenders of a conservative, of a popular leader who viewed the people with an aristocratic contempt. But failing a biographer of genius we are reduced to mere conjecture about Edward. Caruit vate sacro.

EARLY LAW AND SOCIAL ROOTS.

"English Society in the Eleventh Century." By Paul Vinogradoff. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press. 1908. 16s. net.

ENGLISH legal nomenclature has been called a mosaic of many tongues, and the roots of English institutions cross and recross in such amazing confusion that their disentanglement is never likely to become a popular pastime. The specialists who by long practice have acquired the art of breathing in a mediæval atmosphere have learnt at first hand how "nothing in the past is dead to the man who would know how the present comes to be", but the rest of mankind is obliged to accept the oft-quoted passage from Bishop Stubbs as axiomatic. It is now fifteen years since Dr. Vinogradoff tackled the complicated subject of villainage in England by way of a preliminary move towards finding the constituent elements of the Manorial System, and the present volume, continuing the series of essays and embodying the results of his investigation of English society in the eleventh century, is a performance of the promise held out in his preface to "The Growth of the Manor", printed less than three years ago. That remarkable book traced the evolution of the manor as a social institution through the various stages of English history down to the feudal period, and a good deal of the ground it covered must necessarily be gone over again in an examination into the working of the political machinery with its resultant action on the life of the people during the century which brought the Norman to England. To facilitate analysis of the primitive legal institutions of the eleventh century with reference to the society of their age, Dr. Vinogradoff divides his book into two essays, the first devoted to a consideration of society in its relation to government, the second to a discussion on land tenure and a comprehensive study of the different classes sitting on the land.

The motive of old English law, as everybody knows, is the archaic notion that society is made up of an aggregation of families, the social unit being the family, and the Domesday Commissioners, brought into contact with facts the fruit of seed sown in circumstances long forgotten, must have found it exceedingly difficult, however honest their intentions, to make their phraseology fit in with the actual conditions of country life as they saw it. Behind the terminology of Domesday Book lie realities often obscured by mere poverty of language, and to unearth them taxes the ingenuity of experts to the utmost. The Scandinavian element in the population often gives Dr. Vinogradoff a useful clue to the removal of ambiguity in classification, and a methodical observation of the later settled and consequently less feudalised Danish districts has enabled him to answer with some degree of confidence questions raised by the more advanced stage of development reached in the Anglo-Saxon part of the country:

examples of the use that can be made of what may be called the Scandinavian test are the comparison of the obligations of the "dreng" with those of the "thane", and the arguments bearing on military organisation which obtain support from the similarity of the "here" to the early Anglo-Saxon "fyrd".

Opinion is very much divided about those entries in Domesday Book which refer to the "plough-land"; they have given rise to much controversy, some contending they represent the area of cultivation in 1066, others holding that they denote the land fit for tillage; the difference is a very material one in estimating social and economic conditions. Without dogmatising, Dr. Vinogradoff throws the great weight of his authority in favour of the latter view and believes the object of the computation of "terra carucarum" was to provide Government with a survey of arable land which might be used for the plough: in the course of his reasoning he points to the gap between the formularies of questions addressed to the commissioners and juries and the actual returns made, and refuses to read into the four or five plain expressions found very generally in the entries a meaning not directly implied by any of them: the case is stated with a convincing clearness which we almost regret, for it saves so much trouble to take the T.R.E. number of teams as a general clue for the "terra carucis" entries; but hard and fast rules cannot be laid down safely, and common-sense must be the arbiter. This is nowhere more apparent than when it comes to an enquiry into the right rendering of "sake and soke", a jingle which Stubbs thought would not bear analysis. It was a principle of Anglo-Saxon customary law, so Digby tells us, that the nature and extent of the rights of a grantee of land depended upon the form of the gift, and in later grants the "sake and soke" clause was employed when rights of jurisdiction were intended to be conveyed. This does not help us far, for the problem is to determine the nature and extent of the rights passed by the formula; whatever the original sense it would probably soon be lost in a derived meaning. Dr. Vinogradoff equates the words with "case and suit", and though there are passages in Domesday Book which seem to limit the conception of "sake and soke" to the proceeds of jurisdiction, the presumption is very strong that a grant of "sake and soke" would lead naturally to the formation of a separate manorial court. In the eleventh century no clear distinction was drawn between judicial and executive powers, and it is easy to understand the difficulty in practice of separating the juridical and fiscal sides of jurisdiction, even without the history of the Exchequer to guide in forming an opinion. It may be remembered why Mr. Ballard, in his book entitled "The Domesday Inquest", declined to go further than say "Where a person or church had the privilege of 'sake and soke' he received the fines for certain offences". He took his stand on the Domesday returns, yet these admittedly fiscal documents are shown by Dr. Vinogradoff to contain references to holders of "sake and soke" in Danish places and elsewhere which supply proof enough to justify a wider interpretation of the privilege. Mr. Ballard also drew attention to certain entries where "soke" appears opposed to "sake and soke", and on the strength of them ventured to suggest that a grant of "soke" would confer on the grantee the right to the services of the men over whom it was granted, whilst in a grant of "sake and soke" the grantee would receive their fines and forfeitures as well.

This supposition does not meet with encouragement from Dr. Vinogradoff, who disapproves of theories based on the use occasionally made of the word "soke". He refers to the existence of cases where "soke" can be read in a sense which would make the term comprehend all the rights accruing to the King from his subjects; these rights included "claims on their assistance for mustering the host, contributions to royal progresses and farms of right, and possibly some rents and services; by granting the 'soke' the King may grant all such rights or part of them". Surely there is no need to abandon orthodoxy and build on shaky foundations? At all events when profits of jurisdiction were looked upon as income which, like agricultural rents and services, could be given away, grants of "soke"

tending to obliterate remembrance of the several origins of dues fundamentally different by nature must have materially affected the law of land and the legal position of men rendering "soke". The transfer of royal authority and royal income was a process in operation long before the Conquest, and contributed in no small measure to foster the growth of aristocracy and prepare the way for the doctrines of the Norman lawyer. Amongst other factors working towards the same result was the cost of equipping the professional fighter. Where commerce is an unimportant quantity, the man whose obligations require him to be expert with sword or lance has a start of the follower of the plough, and as the century advanced the gap separating the soldier from the tiller of the soil continued to widen. Dr. Vinogradoff finishes his scrutiny of military organisation, jurisdiction and taxation to take a general survey of the land and people. His exhaustive enquiry discloses an ancient system of territorial organisation with a vigorous life of its own underlying the network of growing feudal arrangements, and the "primary cell in this organisation is not the manor but the township" deriving its fibre from communal notions. If it be asked how such an institution could combine with others drawing their vitality from a different principle he supplies the answer—"the English rural community as well as the German and Scandinavian never aimed at a complete subjection of the individuals constituting the union to the rule of this union, or at the exclusion of all private interests, on the contrary individuals were left very free to do what they liked with their labour and to start on private enterprises".

CHURCH ORNAMENTS AND CHATTELS.

"English Church Furniture." By J. Charles Fox and Alfred Harvey. London: Methuen. 1907. 7s. 6d.

THIS is a genuine antiquary's book. From the point of view of the literary stylist, it may leave something to be desired, but it represents the first attempt ever made to collect in one volume an account and description of the more remarkable examples of old church furniture, chancel screens, altar slabs, and such-like things, which still survive in the parish churches of England. (It does not, it should be noted, deal with the Welsh churches.)

The authors tell us that they hope the book will be of "some real assistance to ecclesiologists", and that it "may serve as some slight check on the grievous destruction which ignorance and falsely directed zeal has wrought, even in recent years, among ancient church fittings". That the book will serve these purposes we doubt not, but it should have a wider field of usefulness. In particular we would commend its pages to bishops, archdeacons, diocesan chancellors, and all others whose function it is to settle disputed questions relating to the ornaments, furniture, and decorations of churches. The information collected shows that some of the chief legal decisions on these subjects by the "Courts Christian" of the Victorian epoch are both legally and historically incorrect. The fact is well illustrated by the first chapter, which discusses "stone altars". It has been frequently laid down by ecclesiastical lawyers that the Reformation abolished stone altars on doctrinal grounds, and as an authority for such rulings we are referred to an Elizabethan Injunction of 1559. This often misquoted Injunction is here set out in full, and no one can read it through without seeing that while it permits, it does not expressly order, the removal of stone altars. It is even more important to remember that it expressly states that save for "uniformity" it "seemeth no matter of great moment" whether the altar is of wood or stone. It is true indeed that most of the old stone altars perished in the iconoclasm of the Edwardine and Elizabethan reformations, though some remained to fall before the Puritan sacrilege of the seventeenth century. Therefore to-day "there are very few of the old stone altars standing in English churches, though there are a fair number of cases in which the old mensa or altar slab still remains in the pavement, or has been restored

to its original use. Of those that remain in their original position three were high altars—namely, those at Arundel, Forthampton, and Peterchurch". Stone altars, however, were clearly not deemed illegal in the seventeenth century, since as our authors show one was re-erected at Durham Cathedral in 1626, another at Worcester Cathedral in 1634, while in 1662 Bishop Hacket consecrated a stone altar at Foremark Church, Derbyshire. There are also instances of the use of stone altars in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. From altars we naturally pass to altar rails. When altar screens were invariably to be found in churches, there was no need for altar rails. It is, we are told, a mistake to suppose that altar rails were an innovation of Archbishop Laud. They were in fact coming into general use in Elizabethan days.

The account of church plate is a little disappointing. No distinction is made between the Edwardine and Elizabethan Communion-cup, nor are we reminded, as we should have been, that many of the latter, at least, were made out of the old massing chalices. One of the most interesting chapters is that which discusses the origin of seats and pews in church. The view taken coincides with that of most authorities, that originally there were no seats in the body of the church. The stone benches or tables round the walls, it is suggested, sufficed for the aged and infirm. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, we are told, very many churches were completely furnished with wooden seats. There is much to be said for this view. Indeed it is borne out both by old churchwardens' accounts and by the numerous interesting church seats and bench-ends which still survive from the later post-Reformation period. A list is here given of the more remarkable of these seats and bench-ends arranged according to counties. On the other side it must be remembered that at the close of the fifteenth century, in the first of all the Pew cases that ever came before a court of justice, it was laid down that the man who brings a pew into church encroaches on his neighbours' standing room, a judicial dictum which suggests that, in the reign of Henry VII., the introduction of seats into churches was resented by old-fashioned people. Our authors give an interesting explanation of the squire's pew: "These enclosed boxes, seated and cushioned all round, were the successors in very many cases of the old chantry parcloes at the east end of the aisles, within which stood an altar with room for the celebrant and his clerk, and with one or two prie-dieus behind them used by the founder and his dame, and afterwards by their descendants."

AN ENGLISH PRISON.

"The Story of Dartmoor Prison." By Basil Thomson. London: Heinemann. 1907. 3s. 6d.

WE all know Dartmoor as a great convict prison away upon the wild moors of the West, but people are apt to forget that it began in 1809 as a depot for captured French soldiers and later on for the Americans. There can be little doubt that the inmates had a bad time of it; half starved in that cold and depressing climate, they were reduced to ways and means of living and dying which we now read of with astonishment. It is probable that the Government meant well and that the place was paved with good intentions, but the Departments bungled. It was no easy task to colonise within walls on the waste; they were afraid of this unwelcome foreign legion, and all the more because the guards sympathised with their charges. Mr. Thomson goes the length of saying that "some regiments were worse than others: one at any rate was seething with disaffection, and would have sided with the prisoners against their officers if there had been any disturbance to put their discipline to the test. But of the two evils of being too friendly or too hostile, the former turned out to be the least" [sic].

The really surprising part of the story comes where we read of the "Bohemian" prisoners. These outcasts, who were known as the Romans, were those who had gambled away all they had—even to clothes and bedding—and were then banished to the cock-loft, called the Capitole, where "everyone lived in a state

of nudity and slept naked on the concrete floor . . . which was carpeted with nude bodies all lying on the same side, so closely packed that it was impossible to get a foot between them". At intervals through the night, their leader would shout an order, and then all would turn over at the same time, and wedge themselves in again. For those of them who were obliged to hold intercourse with any outside, they retained some old blankets which were possessed in common, with a hole in the middle for the head, like a poncho has, and in these they would leave their loft. Amongst this herd of human animals were people of education, some of whom lived to attain distinction afterwards; they also were the healthiest of the prisoners, largely immune from epidemic diseases.

In writing of Dartmoor as a convict prison, Mr. Thomson is a very lenient historian, for the full story of those nineteenth-century experiments in punishment would be a shameful and appalling record. Occasionally we get a glimpse of what deeds were done, as when we read that "In 1860 a number of juvenile convicts were received from Parkhurst prison and on April 1st, two of these . . . who were not more than twelve years old, together with an elder convict, cut through a window bar in the weak-minded ward of the infirmary . . . they were never recaptured".

In Dartmoor convict prison at twelve years old! It would be hard indeed to beat the infamy of such a punishment, but it was perhaps equalled in the 'seventies. Mr. Thomson observes: "The official attitude towards prisoners at that period may be judged from the fact that when the chaplain applied for permission to decorate the chapel for Christmas Day the request was refused." We are glad to notice that he says in comment: "Such a prohibition seems incredible to those now concerned with the administration of convict prisons." But these facts must not be lost sight of by the social historians of the Victorian era; we need have no fear of their being forgotten when the gaols shall give up their dead.

NOVELS.

"Emotional Moments." By Sarah Grand. London: Hurst and Blackett. 1908. 6s.

There are a dozen of them altogether, more or less momentary and more or less emotional, short stories, written with more impulse than art, all of them strained and most of them unpleasant, and save for the preface, which one may consider as the thirteenth, there would be very little to say about them. But the preface, being autobiographical, gives an account of how they came into being, and offers them to our contemplation, perhaps not all unconsciously, as a pathological warning. They are, we understand, the fruits of London; the sort of harvest the novelist reaps from that section of the great city which opens its arms to success. It has been written of, often enough, by others who have joyfully accepted the welcome of those arms, and several of the stories here describe the life it leads, and the men and women it produces. Sarah Grand knew in earlier days another London, "a pleasant dream-region, delicately tinted in healthy colours, with every beauty accentuated, and all the ugliness successfully concealed", "a lovely life in which there was no haste or fatigue". The London to which she returned, the London, presumably, to which success introduced her, was "a sadly different world; a world that knew no lovely leisure; a stifling world reeking of full-fed humanity, of the baser passions; a terribly hustling, jostling, overcrowded world of people all intent on securing a good place for themselves . . . a world in which the fighting instincts of the beast in man predominated, and the diviner attributes of his nobler nature were all suppressed". It is a pretty stiff indictment, and as if to prove its truth she offers us these "few Emotional Moments: all that I have to show as the fruit of that feverish time". Now it is true that these Moments are quite bad enough in an uninteresting way to damn the environment which produced them, but it is impossible to estimate its effect on the author without an acquaintance with her previous

work. Just as people describe as bracing any air which, physiologically, suits them, so, morally, they ascribe to a social atmosphere effects which are rather attributable to their own constitution. The "pleasant dream-region" of London was, one imagines, still available to Sarah Grand had she still cared for it; but she preferred instead the "world in which the fighting instincts of the beast predominated and the diviner attributes of man's nobler nature were suppressed". But the choice gives us rather a clue to the chooser than to the suitability of London for imaginative work. If we are to keep our novelists outside London who shall record for us its life? There is really nothing in London inimical to the imagination; a genius who was also, as he probably would be, a failure, might remain there making masterpieces unhindered; in the "dream-region", or even under it. The deadly thing in London is success. And even success is only a poison for the smaller men. Those who cannot exist without its anodyne stay there, and we watch their work deteriorate year by year. The big men, as a rule, clear out. Has not Sarah Grand also shaken the dust of it from her feet? But her criticism of society is beside the point. Art never has gone in harness with Mammon, and the incongruity is only more apparent in our times because Mammon has a fancy now to take the arm of Art. The artist gains nothing from the friendship of the great. As for her own art, one would offer one of the stories here to the author as a parable. It is the story of a baby that was born "skin and bone, the frame of a child, just enough covered to keep it together". Its parents were healthy, the child was well shaped, there was no disease to account for its feebleness. The mother supplies the explanation. She had a nineteen-inch waist, and had succeeded in retaining her figure by living for months, "by great self-denial", on "a cup of black tea and a piece of dry toast". So her baby is born starving, and the efforts to fatten it afterwards on a stimulating diet end in a funeral. These stories give the impression of having been written on spiritual tea and toast, though it cannot be said that they have the frame of a healthy child. But they are all unmistakably the offspring of one more intent on keeping her social figure than on the duties of imaginative motherhood, and, like the doctor and nurse in the story, we have our humane doubts if "such a specimen was worth preserving".

"The Terror of the Macdurghotts." By C. E. Playne. London: Unwin. 1907. 6s.

"Fairshon swore a feud against the clan Mactavish." But that was some time ago. The twentieth century finds the clan of the Macdurghotts and Sir Hugh, their chieftain, engaged in tribal war with the laird of Mordan and his following. Fire and slaughter accompany the quarrel; but he of Mordan has a long purse and manages to keep things out of the newspapers. How the spirit of hatred corrupted even the hearts of Scotch ministers, Established and Episcopalian, and almost ruined the happiness of young Hugh Montague and Adelheid Capulet (so to say); how a beautiful maiden from South America, daughter of a State which had forsworn the sword in favour of arbitration, came upon these northern barbarians in the guise of an angel of peace; all this Miss Playne sets forth in a simple manner not without its charm, though not always grammatically above reproach. It will be seen that she strains the imagination of her readers; and yet her story is saved by its sincerity. For it is, if we have read it aright, an allegorical protest against that aggressive spirit which still arms nation against nation, as it formerly armed clan against clan.

"The Plains of Alu." By Dorothy Summers. London: Everett. 1908. 6s.

This book begins with some amusing passages in the lives of Hazel and Bumps, two unruly Irish children. They are faithfully observed, and their escapades are entertaining, notably so when they throw cold water (by means of the garden hose) on a servants' ball which is going on in the absence and without the sanction of the authorities of Castle Temple, in the county of Dublin. The author has a feeling for nature, and has

gracefully suggested, without undue obtrusion, an Irish setting of lush meadows, sheltered inlets of the sea and distant purple mountains. For a hundred pages the leisurely, not very vivid interest of the story is preserved. But when someone brings a mummy's head from Egypt and poor Hazel begins to be haunted by an invisible presence which undermines her health, the experienced reader knows that the fun is over. What remains is an expedition to Egypt to discover and carry out the mummy's behest, a deal of ecstatic writing about the marvels of the East, and a copper-coloured professor who talks Egyptology by the yard.

"The Willoughby Affair." By G. W. Appleton. London: Long. 1908. 6s.

When the butler took the decanter and glasses into Sir James Willoughby's smoking-room, he found a young officer in the Guards—a total stranger to the house—escaping through the door, while his master sat dead at his writing-table, shot through the head. The story of subsequent events is told by the counsel retained to defend the officer in his trial for murder. His client refused to give any account of his presence in a strange house. The true explanation is remarkable. What writers of detective stories would do without Russian revolutionaries and sisters who can be mistaken for each other we cannot imagine. Mr. Appleton constructs his tangle ingeniously, and his arch-villain shows unusual foresight in covering his tracks.

SHORTER NOTICES.

"The Dictionary of National Biography." Vol. II. London: Smith, Elder. 15s. net.

Names beginning in B seem to be in a majority. At any rate the B's in "The Dictionary of National Biography" are, we believe, more numerous and take up more room than any other initial. In the first edition they spread themselves from half-way through the second volume to the middle of the eighth. Hence in this second volume of the re-issue we start with Beal and get no further than Browell, notwithstanding the 1,380 pages which it comprises. The longest biography in the volume is apparently Brougham's: it occupies nineteen columns, and is a very admirable summary of an extraordinary career. The writer finds it possible even in the space at his disposal to illustrate his subject by such happy touches as "In the first twenty numbers of the 'Edinburgh Review' Brougham had as many as eighty articles. Eager to write everything himself, he was so jealous of new contributors that the editor, Jeffrey, took care not to let him know of any addition to his staff". Next to Brougham among the B's, John Bright seems to claim the largest space, but as John Bright was alive when the original Volume VI. appeared we have to wait for the supplement for his biography. There is, however, nothing in the present volume to show that he has not been omitted altogether, which adds to the regret we expressed in noticing Volume I. that it was not found convenient to include the supplementary biographies in their proper order in this re-issue. The absence of the John Bright is the more noticeable because the Brights include John Bright of Cromwell's time and John Bright the scholar-physician. Otherwise the reprint has been carefully overhauled and revised.

"The Church Handbook." By P. V. Smith. London: Wells Gardner. 2s. 6d. net.

Chancellor P. V. Smith has turned out a useful little book on the status and position in Christendom of the Anglican Church. He gives much trustworthy and practical information on

(Continued on page 506.)

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ecclesiastical property and revenues, parochial officers, Church assemblies, and such-like matters, and his picture of the constitutions of colonial Churches is accurate and valuable. But one criticism we must make. When he touches on deep questions of history and theology he displays a not over-judicious partisanship. Just because we accept the continuity of the post-reformation from the pre-reformation Church of England, we feel bound to protest against the imprudent manner in which a good cause is here supported. Seeking to prove that the Papacy possessed less power in England than in other parts of western Europe, the author refers to the well-known case of Wilfrid of York: "While Theodore was Archbishop of Canterbury, Wilfrid, the Bishop of York, appealed in person to Rome against a subdivision of his diocese without his consent, and obtained a papal decision in his favour. But on his return to England, instead of deference being paid to this decision, he was not only deprived of his bishopric, but thrown into prison by order of the King and the Witenagemote of Northumbria." Now, first, it is misleading to draw an argument as to the attitude of England in civilised times to the See of Rome from an isolated action by the rulers of a barbarous and recently converted heptarchic state; and, secondly, it is unfair to suppress the fact that the chief point of Wilfrid's antagonists was that he had secured the papal decision in his favour by bribery—of course a ridiculous accusation. It must further be remembered that Wilfrid in this instance threw down a challenge to Theodore as his metropolitan not on a doubtful point of Church order, but on the ordinary exercise of his canonical jurisdiction. But Chancellor Smith has only eyes for points which assist his side of the case. He makes much of the Statutes of Provisors and Præmunire; but he ignores the fact that the English Church of the fifteenth century as represented by Lyndwood's "Provinciale" is far more papal than the contemporary Gallican Church of Gerson. Similarly with theology. He seeks to draw from Elfric's homily on the Eucharist the conclusion that Transubstantiation was unknown in the Anglo-Saxon Church. It all depends on what you mean by Transubstantiation. There is nothing in Elfric inconsistent with the dogma of Transubstantiation as explained by Bellarmine.

"A Star of the Salons." By Camilla Jebb. London: Methuen. 1908. 10s. 6d. net.

This particular star of the salons that was shining when the salons of Paris were what the literary clubs used to be in London is Mlle. Julie de Lespinasse. She is one of the famous women of the years just preceding the Revolution, whose house was the meeting-place of aristocracy and literature, science and art, and yet she was neither aristocrat, except in a left-handed way, nor a writer herself. It would be puzzling to explain how she came to exercise her great influence over the very distinguished men of her circle except by referring vaguely to her "personality", and though Miss Jebb has hardly laid bare the secret she has enabled us to realise the fascination itself as a striking fact. There has been so much book-making lately dealing with French subjects that it is only justice to Miss Jebb to point out that her book differs from this class of work. It is a sincere, sympathetic, cultivated and even learned biography in the sense that Miss Jebb is familiar with the literature and society or whatever else of the period it is necessary to understand in connexion with Mlle. Lespinasse, as well as with the special material relating to her provided by the French writers who have made her an object of special study. Miss Jebb has been fascinated, she says, with Mlle. Lespinasse; and we see that she has not only admired her for her intellect, but been moved by her sorrows as a womanly type. The book is informed by an ideal, and the result is a good biography, an artistic product.

"Old English Sports." By Frederick W. Hackwood. London: Fisher Unwin. 10s. 6d. net.

There is much curious and interesting information in this book which Mr. Hackwood has put together from very varied sources. Tournaments, hunting, hawking, horse-racing, cocking, dog-fighting, bull and bear baiting, archery, tennis, fives, rackets, single-stick, wrestling, pugilism; about all of these there is a history and a literature which affords ample store for the industrious compiler, who without much effort of intellect can make a book in which a reader, whatever his tastes may be, can find amusing reading which requires as little intellectual effort as the writer himself needed to make. But we should prefer it for relaxation to more than half the novels with which the ordinary reader passes his time; and Mr. Hackwood deserves credit for knowing where to go for his matter and giving his reader the benefit of it. Mr. Hackwood does not strike us as a sportsman or expert himself, but even in these days of the expert we cannot expect first-hand lore of tournaments and hawking. But we should not be surprised if Mr. Hackwood had never seen a boxing-match, not to say an old-time prize-fight. He certainly writes rather gingerly of the last, and on the whole most of our old English sports are well dead, and we would much rather read about them than see

them. It would require a stronger stomach than most of us have in these days; and a book like this is well worth reading if for nothing else than as a record of social improvement. If we wonder whether there has been that improvement a casual glance at this book will assure us.

"West Ham: Report of the Outer London Inquiry Committee." By Edward G. Howarth and Mona Wilson. London: Dent. 6s.

This is the first of a series of reports on economic and social conditions in Outer London districts which have been undertaken by skilled investigators. West Ham has been a happy hunting-ground for other sorts of investigators in search of sensation rather than accuracy, and it cannot be denied that West Ham has had to suffer not only from its misfortunes, which this report shows are many, but for the sins of those who should have been the guardians of its interests. In West Ham almost all the troubles of modern life are concentrated—unemployment from the prevalence of casual labour, surplus population, which is in close connexion with the conditions of labour, bad housing, with overcrowding, a heavy rate of pauperism and high poor rates, sweated labour, offensive trades, lack of open spaces, high birth and death rates, and especially the death rate of children. Most of the property is of low rateable value, and a calculation has been made that in the case of the education rate there is a loss on each house of over £2 10s. There are nine hundred acres of land still unoccupied, and if houses of the prevailing type were to be built on them it would be cheaper to purchase the land and preserve it in open spaces. Land has gone up immensely in value; in some cases forty or fifty times what it would have sold for thirty years ago. But unfortunately the only profitable use that can be made of it is by building on it low-rated houses. Except for special grants from the Education Board, education must have broken down completely in West Ham, and it would seem that in the end the borough will have to be included in the metropolitan area. The report has been very thoroughly and scientifically prepared; and though it is a depressing account of poverty, there is hopefulness in thinking that a wider knowledge of the circumstances of such large areas of London must stimulate further efforts for their improvement.

"The Story of Crime." By H. L. Adam. London: Laurie. 1908. 12s. 6d. net.

We imagine that Mr. Adam must be inexperienced as a book-writer, since we have seldom come across a volume which improves so much as it goes forward. He has apparently been a journalist and a jurymen, and in both these capacities he has gone over many prisons, and has observed and written like a sensible man, so that he really conveys a very good idea of what takes place, and what is endured, particularly in those modern whitened sepulchres shortly expressed as cells. Many of the photographs are excellent and instructive—but why drag in portraits of certain judges and counsel for no better reason, that we can discover, than because they were private friends? We might just as well have had a likeness of "Lord Neville"—better indeed, because there is no such person, although we know who is intended. "Sherlock Holmes" and "Little Lord Fauntleroy" made similar mistakes. But as an observer of prison ways and shortcomings the author is mainly sound and accurate, and, unlike a certain pompous person who wrote recently, he does not forget that he is speaking of men and women, who must ever be human, in spite of hard words and relegation into slavery.

For this Week's Books see page 508.

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To the INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SOCIETY (Limited).

Gentlemen,—Having paid to Parr's Bank (Limited) the sum of £ being a deposit of 2s. per share on Ordinary shares of £1 each of the above Company, I offer to purchase that number of shares, or any smaller number of shares in respect of which you may accept this offer, upon the terms of the particulars of offer, dated 9th April, 1908, and of the memorandum and articles of association of the said Company, and to pay the balance due from me by the instalments specified in the said particulars. Non-payment of any instalment at its due date will render the instalments already paid thereon liable to forfeiture.

Signature.....

Name (in full)

Address

Description.....

Date

To the PROFIT SHARING SECURED NOTEHOLDERS OF THE UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC RAILWAYS COMPANY OF LONDON, LIMITED.

The Directors of the Underground Electric Railways Company of London, Limited, have carefully considered the best means for meeting the Company's financial requirements, and for dealing with its 5 per Cent. Profit Sharing Secured Notes, which mature 1st June, 1908. The Directors have, in consultation with Messrs. Speyer and with Advisory Committees in London and Amsterdam, formulated a Scheme of readjustment which they, Messrs. Speyer and the Committees, recommend to your consideration and approval.

The main features of the Scheme may be briefly summarised as follows:—

The Company is to create the following securities:—

£1,000,000 5 PER CENT. PRIOR LIEN BONDS to Bearer, due 1st November, 1920.

(Redeemable at par in whole or part, at the Company's option, at any time on six months' notice.)

Principal and interest will be payable in London in Sterling, or at the holder's option in New York at the exchange of \$4.86 66 per £, or in Frankfurt on Maine at the exchange of Mks. 20.40 per £, or in Amsterdam at the exchange of Fl. 12.12 per £.

Interest will run from the 1st May, 1908, and will be payable half-yearly on the 1st May and 1st November. The rate of interest will be such as to yield a clear 5 per cent. per annum after payment of British Income Tax.

The Trust Deed will, under carefully drawn restrictions, empower the Company to issue an additional £250,000 Bonds, ranking *pari passu* with the other Prior Lien Bonds for the time being outstanding.

The Bonds are to be secured by a first charge upon the collaterals now deposited as security for the Profit Sharing Secured Notes, with an addition of £3,500,000 (nominal) of Shares of the Baker Street and Waterloo, Great Northern, Piccadilly and Euston, and Charing Cross, Euston and Hampstead Railway Companies, and a charge (without power of sale or foreclosure) on the Company's Power House undertaking, subject to the now authorised Power House First and Second Debenture Issues or any reissue thereof or reborrowing to redeem such Debentures.

£3,000,000 4½ PER CENT. BONDS OF 1933 to Bearer, due 1st January, 1933.

(Redeemable at par in whole or part, at the Company's option, at any time on six months' notice.)

Principal and interest will be payable in London in Sterling, or at the holder's option in New York at the exchange of \$4.86 66 per £, or in Frankfurt on Maine at the exchange of Mks. 20.40 per £, or in Amsterdam at the exchange of Fl. 12.12 per £.

Interest will run from the 1st December, 1907. The first coupon will represent seven months' interest, and will be payable one month after the Scheme becomes binding. Subsequent coupons will be payable half-yearly on the 1st January and 1st July. The rate of interest will be such as to yield a clear 4½ per cent. per annum after payment of British Income Tax.

The 4½ Cent. Bonds will be secured by a charge on the same collaterals as the Prior Lien Bonds, similar to but ranking immediately after the charge of those Bonds.

The Trust Deed will provide, *inter alia*, that, in the event of four consecutive coupons being at any one time in arrear and unpaid, the charge for securing the 4½ per Cent. Bonds shall become immediately enforceable, in which event the Trustee may, and, upon request of bearers of a majority in value of the outstanding amount of such Bonds, shall (subject to the rights of the Prior Lien Bondholders), realise the Stocks and Shares deposited as collateral.

£5,200,000 6 PER CENT. INCOME BONDS to Bearer, due 1st January, 1948.

(Redeemable at par in whole or part, at the Company's option, at any time on six months' notice.)

Principal and interest will be payable in London in Sterling, or at the holder's option in New York at the exchange of \$4.86 66 per £, or in Frankfurt on Maine at the exchange of Mks. 20.40 per £, or in Amsterdam at the exchange of Fl. 12.12 per £.

The Trust Deed will provide for payment of the interest on the Income Bonds (which is to be non-cumulative) in semi-annual instalments out of the profits of each half-year available for the purpose and remaining after making or providing for all other payments on revenue account for such half-year and setting aside such sums for reserve as the Directors may think expedient. The full rate of interest will be such as to yield a clear 6 per cent. per annum, free of British Income Tax.

The holders of the Income Bonds are to be entitled, as far as the law will permit, to attend and vote at all Meetings of the Company, but they are not to vote on any resolution for putting the Company into liquidation. They are to have eleven votes for each £100 of principal of the said Bonds.

TERMS OF CONVERSION.

Noteholders will be asked to exchange their Notes as to 40 per cent. of their nominal value into 4½ per Cent. Bonds of 1933 at par, and as to 70 per cent. of their nominal value into Income Bonds at par, the exchange taking place as on 1st December, 1907.

The 4½ per Cent. Bonds of 1933 and the Income Bonds given in exchange for those Notes which are payable in United States currency, will be issued in even amounts of Sterling, the exchange being made at the rate of \$4.86 66 to the £ sterling, and Scrip will be given for the resulting fractional parts, convertible into new Bonds when presented in amounts of £20 or multiples thereof.

The following table shows the way in which it is proposed to deal with the new securities:—

APPLICATION OF PROPOSED NEW SECURITIES.

	5 per Cent. Prior Lien Bonds	4½ per Cent. Bonds of 1933	6 per Cent. Income Bonds
To Holders of £3,500,268 5s. 8d. 5 per cent. Profit Sharing Secured Notes ...	—	£1,439,797 7 10	£2,519,467 18 9
To Holders of £16,550,000 5 per cent. Profit Sharing Secured Notes (taken at \$4.86 66)	—	1,360,292 12 2	2,350,512 1 3
Reserved for Special Inter- est Fund	—	200,000 0 0	300,000 0 0
Underwritten by Messrs. Speyer and their friends	£1,000,000 0 0	—	—
	£1,000,000 0 0	£2,000,000 0 0	£5,200,000 0 0

The Coupon due the 1st December, 1907, on the Notes, and the seven months' interest, due 1st July, 1908, on the 4½ per Cent. Bonds of 1933, will be paid in full in cash out of the proceeds of the issue of Prior Lien Bonds.

SPECIAL INTEREST FUND.

The estimated net revenues of the Company would scarcely warrant the Company in undertaking a definite obligation to pay the interest during the first few years on the 4½ per Cent. Bonds of 1933, but in order that the Noteholders may not suffer so serious a reduction in their income as would otherwise be the case during the further development of the enterprise, Messrs. Speyer Brothers, of London, Messrs. Speyer & Co., of New York, and Mr. Lazard Speyer-Ellissen, of Frankfurt on Maine, have by Agreement with the Company dated the 7th April, 1908, undertaken to purchase on or before each 1st January and 1st July, commencing with the 1st January, 1909, such an amount of 4½ per Cent. Bonds and Income Bonds at the price and rate of £300 and accrued interest on the 4½ per Cent. Bonds for £200 (nominal) of 4½ per Cent. Bonds, and £300 (nominal) of Income Bonds (taken together) as will by the proceeds make good any deficiency in the full interest for the preceding half-year on the 4½ per Cent. Bonds which the revenues of the Company to the close of such half-year remaining after making or providing for all payments on revenue account (except interest on the Income Bonds) for the same half-year, but before providing for reserve, are insufficient to meet. Messrs. Speyer, however, stipulate that they are not to be liable under such undertaking for more than £300,000 in all (being the purchase money of £200,000 of 4½ per Cent. Bonds and £300,000 of Income Bonds). The Company are to set aside the purchase money of the said Bonds, and apply it solely for payment of the interest on the 4½ per Cent. Bonds.

The Directors are of opinion that the Special Interest Fund of £300,000 will be sufficient to make up any deficiencies down to and including the 1st July, 1919, and that thereafter, if not before, the surplus income of the Company will be sufficient to meet all the Company's fixed charges.

As Messrs. Speyer agree to purchase the above Bonds at the price named from a desire to assist the Company in arranging with the Noteholders, and their agreement to do so is conditional upon the Scheme becoming binding, all Noteholders are urged to accept the Scheme and deposit their Notes under the Deposit Agreement referred to below without delay.

SALE OF PRIOR LIEN BONDS AND APPLICATION OF PROCEEDS.

The proposed issue of £1,000,000 Prior Lien Bonds will be offered to the Noteholders and Shareholders for subscription at the price of £93 per £100 Bond as soon as may be after the Scheme becomes binding, the Bonds to carry interest from the date of payment of the final instalment in each case, and the whole of such proposed issue has been underwritten by Messrs. Speyer and their friends at the foregoing price, conditionally on the Scheme being accepted by the Noteholders and Shareholders and becoming binding.

An Agreement dated 7th April, 1908, has been entered into between Messrs. Speyer Brothers, Messrs. Speyer & Co., Mr. Lazard Speyer-Ellissen, and Messrs. Teixeira de Mattos Brothers, all therein referred to as "the Readjustment Managers," of the first part, those holders of Profit Sharing Secured Notes who deposit their Notes under that Agreement, of the second part, and the Depositories referred to below of the third part. This Agreement provides for the deposit of Notes for the purpose of better ensuring the carrying of the Scheme. The Directors, however, reserve the right to decide whether, in view of the number of Notes deposited under this agreement or otherwise, they are justified in proceeding with the Scheme.

DEPOSIT OF NOTES.

Noteholders are invited to deposit their Notes, under the terms of the foregoing Agreement, on or before the 1st May, 1908, with one or other of the following Depositories, viz.:—

The London & Westminster Bank, Limited, Lothbury, London, E.C. 1;

The Guaranty Trust Company of New York, No. 28 Nassau Street, New York;

The Associatie Cassa, Amsterdam;

Or with Mr. Lazard Speyer-Ellissen, Frankfurt on Maine, as Agent for the first-named Depository.

Under the above Deposit Agreement negotiable receipts for the deposited Notes will be issued by the respective Depositories, which, if the Scheme becomes binding with or without modification, will be exchanged in due course for the new securities mentioned above, stamped with the British Stamp duty where necessary. If the Scheme does not become binding, receipt holders are, on being so requested by advertisement, to surrender their receipts and withdraw the Notes and coupons represented thereby (or a like amount of Notes and coupons).

Owing to there being no other means of binding a dissentient minority of the Noteholders, it is intended to proceed with the Scheme under the Joint Stock Companies Arrangement Act, 1870.

Copies of the complete Circular (of which this notice is only a synopsis), to which the Deposit Agreement and the full Scheme are scheduled, may be obtained at the Offices of the Company in London, or at the Offices of the above-mentioned Readjustment Managers, where copies of the Agreement as to the Special Interest Fund can also be inspected.

By order of the Board,

W. E. MANDELICK,

14th April, 1908.

Secretary.

Referring to the foregoing Notice, the undersigned recommend to the Noteholders the prompt acceptance of the Company's proposals, and urge them to deposit their Notes on or before 1st May, 1908, with one or other of the Depositories mentioned in the foregoing Notice.

As the Company's Circular contains further information of importance to the Noteholders, they are advised to obtain copies thereof at the Office of either of the undersigned.

SPEYER BROTHERS,
SPEYER & CO.

LONDON AND NEW YORK.
14th April, 1908.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

Head Office: Hatton Court, Threadneedle Street, London.
(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

PAID-UP CAPITAL, in 60,000 Shares of £20 each .. £1,200,000.
RESERVE FUND .. £1,525,000.

COURT OF DIRECTORS.—William Christian, Esq.; Sir Henry S. Cunningham, K.C.I.E.; Thomas Cuthbertson, Esq.; Sir Alfred Dent, K.C.M.G.; Henry Neville Gladstone, Esq.; Emile Levita, Esq.; Sir Montagu Cornish Turner, Lewis Alexander Wallace, Esq.

MANAGERS.—Caleb Lewis, T. H. Whitehead. SUB-MANAGER.—T. Fraser.

AUDITORS.—Maurice Nelson Girdlestone, Esq.; Magnus Mowat, Esq.

BANKERS.—The Bank of England, the London City and Midland Bank, Limited, the National Bank of Scotland, Limited.

AGENCIES AND BRANCHES.—Bangkok, Batavia, Bombay, Calcutta, Cebu, Colombo, Fouchow, Hamburg, Hankow, Hongkong, Ipoh, Karachi, Kobe, Kuala Lumpur, Madras, Manila, Medan, New York, Penang, Rangoon, Saigon, Shanghai, Singapore, Sourabaya, Thaising, Tientsin, Yokohama.

DIRECTORS' REPORT. (Presented at the Fifty-fourth Ordinary General Meeting, 15th April, 1908.)

The Directors have now to submit to the Shareholders the balance-sheet and profit and loss account of the bank for the year ended 31st December last.

These show a net profit, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, of £361,551 14s. 9d., inclusive of £92,369 8s. brought forward from the previous year. The interim dividend at the rate of 13 per cent. per annum paid in October last on the old shares absorbed £52,000, and a further sum of £18,000 has been appropriated to pay a bonus of 10 per cent. on the salaries of the staff. The amount now available is therefore £691,551 14s. 9d., out of which £17,668 4s. 7d. has been appropriated in payment of interest on the new capital to December 31, 1907, and the Directors propose to pay a final dividend on the old shares at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, making 14 per cent. for the whole year; to add £50,000 to the Reserve Fund, which will then stand at £1,525,000; to add £10,000 to the Officers' Superannuation Fund; to write off premises account £25,000; and to carry forward the balance of £129,483 10s. 2d.

It is with deep regret that the Directors have to announce the death of their esteemed colleague, Mr. Jasper Young.

Mr. Thomas Cuthbertson, of Messrs. Edward Boustead & Co., London, has been elected a Director, and the shareholders are now requested to confirm his election.

Sir Alfred Dent, K.C.M.G., and Mr. Thomas Cuthbertson, the Directors who now retire by rotation, present themselves for re-election.

The Auditors, Mr. Maurice Nelson Girdlestone and Mr. Magnus Mowat, again tender their services.

By Order of the Court.
CALEB LEWIS and T. H. WHITEHEAD, Managers.

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS, 31st December, 1907.

LIABILITIES.		£	s.	d.
To Capital, paid up in full	.. .. .	1,200,000	0	0
Reserve Fund .. .. .	.. .. .	1,475,000	0	0
Notes in Circulation .. .. .	.. .. .	659,935	35	4
Current Accounts .. .. .	.. .. .	5,587,829	17	3
Fixed Deposits .. .. .	.. .. .	6,700,901	3	10
Bills payable:—				
Drafts on demand and at short sight on Head Office and Branches	£1,351,600	1	8	
Drafts on London and Foreign Bankers	394,519	5	7	
Acceptances on Account of Customers	1,743,110	7	3	
Loans Payable, against Securities	1,226,683	8	5	
Due to Agents and Correspondents	1,495,675	3	0	
Sundry Adjustments and other Accounts, including Provision on account of Bad and Doubtful Debts and other Contingencies	3,570	12	6	
Sundry Liabilities	308,035	6	4	
Balances between Head Office and Branches, including Exchange Adjustments	161,579	17	3	
Profit and Loss	91,369	13	7	
Liability on Bills of Exchange re-discounted, £5,176,692 9s. 5d., of which, up to this date, £3,894,109 2s. 9d. has run off.	291,551	14	9	
	£21,075,231	16	6	
ASSETS.		£	s.	d.
By Cash in hand and at Bankers	2,761,781	7	7	
Bullion	622,342	12	7	
Government and other Securities	1,108,067	13	0	
Security lodged against Note Issues and Government Deposits	489,045	19	10	
Bills of Exchange	5,663,799	13	0	
Bills Discounted and Loans	8,631,780	11	4	
Liability of Customers for Acceptances, per Contra	1,226,683	8	5	
Due by Agents and Correspondents	230,623	2	8	
Sundry Assets	16,625	16	1	
Bank Premises and Furniture at the Head Office and Branches	262,461	12	0	
	£21,075,231	16	6	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st Dec. 1907.

Dr.		£	s.	d.
To Interim Dividend, for the half-year to 30th June last, at the rate of 13 per cent. per annum .. .. .	.. .. .	52,000	0	0
Bonus to Staff .. .. .	.. .. .	18,000	0	0
Balance proposed to be dealt with as follows:—				
Dividend, at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, for the half-year to date	£60,000	0	0	
Reserve Fund	50,000	0	0	
Officers' Superannuation Fund	10,000	0	0	
Bank Premises	25,000	0	0	
Interest on New Capital to 31st Decem-ber, 1907 (already paid)	17,668	4	7	
Carried forward to Profit and Loss New Account	129,483	10	2	
	£201,551	14	9	
	£361,551	14	9	
Cr.		£	s.	d.
By Balance at 1st December, 1906 .. .. .	.. .. .	93,399	8	0
Gross Profits for the year, after providing for bad and doubtful debts	£321,181	4	3	
Deduct:—Expenses of Management and General Charges at Head Office and Branches	259,998	17	6	
Net Profits for the year	268,182	6	9	
	£361,551	14	9	

London, 26th March, 1908.
Examined and found correct, according to the Books, Vouchers, and Securities at the Head Office, and to the Certified Returns made from the several Branches.
M. N. GIRDLESTONE, } Auditors.
M. MOWAT, }

Warrants for the Dividend, payable at the London City and Midland Bank, Limited, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C., on and after 22nd instant, will be issued to all the Shareholders.
London, 15th April, 1908.

MEXICAN CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY, LTD.

National Railroad Company of Mexico.

To the Holders of the following Securities:—

MEXICAN CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY LIMITED:

Priority 5 per cent. Bonds,
First Mortgage 7 per cent. Bonds and Scrip, Assented,
Consolidated Mortgage 4 per cent. Bonds,
First Consolidated Income Bonds and Scrip,
Second Consolidated Income Bonds,
Registered Income Bonds and Scrip,
Stock.

NATIONAL RAILROAD COMPANY OF MEXICO:

Preferred Stock, Common Stock (old),
Second Preferred Stock, Deferred Stock.

Referring to our previous notice dated April 6th, the undersigned have consented to act as Rea Justment Managers of a Plan of Readjustment and Union of Mexican Central Railway Company, Limited, and National Railroad Company of Mexico through the constitution of a new company under the name of Ferrocarriles Nacionales de Mexico (National Railways of Mexico) to be controlled by the Mexican Government by stock ownership.

The New Company is to authorise the following bonds and shares:

a. Prior Lien Four and One-Half Per Cent. Sinking Fund Redeemable Gold Bonds, for \$225,000,000 United States Gold.

b. General Mortgage Four Per Cent. Sinking Fund, Redeemable Gold Bonds for \$160,000,000 United States Gold, unconditionally guaranteed, principal and interest by the Republic of Mexico, by endorsement on each bond.

c. Non-Cumulative Four Per Cent. First Preferred Shares for 60,000,000 Mexican Gold Pesos or \$30,000,000 United States Gold.

To assure to the holders of First Preferred Shares the payment of semi-annual dividends of 1% for the period of three years from January 1, 1908, to the extent to which the net profits of the Company which shall first be applied for that purpose shall not be sufficient to make such payment, provision is to be made for the setting aside by the New Company, as a separate fund, of \$1,800,000 Prior Lien Bonds, and \$1,200,000 Guaranteed General Mortgage Bonds, or, in case of a sale thereof, then a sufficient amount of the proceeds thereof.

d. Non-Cumulative Five Per Cent. Second Preferred Shares for 250,000,000 Mexican Gold Pesos, or \$125,000,000 United States Gold.

e. Common Shares for 150,000,000 Mexican Gold Pesos or \$75,000,000 United States Gold.

TABLE SHOWING BASIS OF EXCHANGE OF SECURITIES.

Deposited Bonds and Stocks.	Each \$1,000 par value of old Securities is to receive					
	Cash.	4% Prior Lien Bonds	Guaranteed Mortgage Bonds	First Preferred Shares	Second Preferred Shares	Common Shares
MEXICAN CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED:						
Priority 5% Bonds		700	475			
First Mortgage 7% Bonds and Scrip (assented)		1,000				
Consolidated Mortgage 4% Bonds		600	375		75	
First Consolidated Income Bonds and Scrip					1,100	
Registered Income Bonds and Scrip					1,100	
Second Consolidated Income Bonds and Scrip					1,000	
NATIONAL RAILROAD COMPANY OF MEXICO:						
Preferred Stock	100			1,000		
Second Preferred Stock					1,100	
Common Stock (old)					733	333
Deferred Stock						1,000

For further particulars with respect to the rights of the holders of the respective classes of Bonds of the New Company, and certain rights reserved to the New Company to issue additional Bonds of each class ranking *pari passu* with the other bonds of the same class as well as for additional details touching the exchange of securities, reference is made to the Plan and Agreement of readjustment and Union, copies of which may be obtained at the office of any of the Depositaries.

For a full statement of the rights of the holders of the respective classes of shares of the New Company, reference is made to the decree of the Federal Government of the Republic of Mexico, dated July 6, 1907, a copy of which has been filed with each of the Depositaries, and can be inspected at the office of any of the Depositaries.

Holders of securities and stock of MEXICAN CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED, called for deposit, who desire to become parties to the Plan must, on or before MAY 1, 1908, deposit their securities and stocks, under the Plan with CENTRAL TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK, No. 54 Wall Street, New York, or with its Agents for that purpose in Boston, KIDDER, PEARBODY & CO., 115 Devonshire Street, Boston.

Holders of stocks of NATIONAL RAILROAD COMPANY OF MEXICO who desire to become parties to the Plan must, on or before said May 1, 1908, deposit their stocks under the Plan with THE MERCANTILE TRUST COMPANY, No. 120 Broadway, New York.

Deposits of stocks and securities of both of said companies also may be made:

In London with: J. HENRY SCHRÖDER & CO., 145 Leadenhall Street, E.C.
SPEYER BROTHERS, 7 Lothbury, E.C.
GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE & CO., 67 Lombard Street, E.C.
SWISS BANKVEREIN, 43 Lothbury, E.C.

In Amsterdam with: HOPE & CO.

TEIXEIRA DE MATTOS BROTHERS.

In Mexico with: BANCO NACIONAL DE MEXICO.

No securities will be accepted for deposit unless in negotiable condition. First Consolidated Income Bonds of the Central Company must carry all coupons maturing after July 10, 1909, Second Consolidated Income Bonds must carry all coupons; other bonds must carry all coupons maturing after January 1, 1908; and all certificates of stock must be accompanied by proper transfers and assignments executed in blank. For securities deposited proper certificates of deposit will be delivered, and on such deposit the depositor will become bound by all the provisions of the Plan and Agreement of Readjustment and Union, to the exact terms of which reference is made, and upon the terms of which solely will deposits be accepted.

The Plan has been approved by the Government of Mexico and, subject to the sanction of its Debenture holders, by the Board of Directors of the Mexican Central Railway Securities Company, Limited, which holds over \$37,500,000 Consolidated Mortgage 4 per cent. Bonds of the Mexican Central Railway Company, Limited,

and by the holders of a majority of the outstanding stock of the Mexican Central Railway Company, Limited, and of the National Railroad Company of Mexico; and by the respective Boards of Directors of the two Companies last named.
Dated April 15th, 1908.

KUHN, LOEB & CO.,
LADENBURG, THALMANN & CO.,
SPEYER BROTHERS,
SPEYER & CO.,
HALLGARTEN & CO.,
BANK FÜR HANDEL UND INDUSTRIE,
BERLINER HANDELSGESELLSCHAFT,
Readjustment Managers.

To the Holders of
**NATIONAL RAILROAD COMPANY OF MEXICO PREFERRED SHARES
and SECOND PREFERRED SHARES.**

Referring to the Plan for the readjustment and union of the Mexican Central Railway Company, Limited, and National Railroad Company of Mexico, the undersigned beg to inform holders of the above Shares that the terms offered for same have been agreed on after prolonged negotiations, and recommend their acceptance and the deposit of Shares under the Plan without delay.

April 15th, 1908. SPEYER BROTHERS, 7 LOTHBURY, LONDON, E.C.
SPEYER & CO., NEW YORK.

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AND
PRESSES IN
ONE
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LA REVUE POLITIQUE ET LITTÉRAIRE

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IND, COOPE.

THE Twenty-second Ordinary General Meeting of Ind, Coope & Co., Limited, was held on Monday at the Great Eastern Hotel, Sir Thomas Skewes-Cox presiding.

The Secretary having read the usual notices,

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts. He said that, considering the stormy times through which they had passed, coupled with the effect of bad trade and excessive taxation, they could not but agree that the result of the past year's working was, perhaps, a little more satisfactory than the most optimistic could have expected. Turning to profit and loss account, the gross profit on brewing was £386,182 15s. 10d., against £416,671 16s. 4d. last year. This difference was accounted for by the slight diminution in their sales, which amounted to just 2½ per cent., and had principally arisen in London, where trade had been in a most unsatisfactory condition. To this gross profit on brewing had to be added £27,324 6s. 6d., net profit on wines and spirits, distillery, &c., compared with £22,156 in the preceding year. The accountants had treated rates and taxes in a different manner this year. Had they put the rates and taxes to profit and loss account in the same way as in the previous year, the gross profit on brewing would have been £5,986 better, so the decrease was apparent, not real. In addition to the handsome way in which the managing director (Mr. C. Howard Tripp) had met them with regard to his remuneration, most of the members of the staff who were in receipt of salaries of over £200 per annum had given up from their salaries, commencing in October and January last, sums which, in the aggregate, came to £6,300 a year, which reductions the Company will have the benefit of this year. The final result was that they had a balance brought down of £165,777, against £169,122 in 1906. After payment of debenture interest in full, the compensation fund charge under the Act of 1904, £9,159, &c., they carried forward a balance of £ 9,955, so that the net result was within £350 of that on the previous year's working. Although the wine and spirit business had been somewhat curtailed at home through lack of funds to develop it properly, it still yielded a handsome profit. It was thought that, by working this business separately from the Company, with additional capital brought into it, a much larger return might be obtained and increased business done, while, at the same time, if the capital now locked up in the wine and spirit business in stocks and book debts were released it would be of considerable benefit to the Company, and help to replenish, to some extent, the working capital which had been so largely drawn upon of late years by the repayment of depositors. Negotiations were well in progress in this connection. With reference to the reorganisation and cutting-down of the capital, which had had the careful consideration of the shareholders' committee and of the directors, he said that, owing to the Government Licensing Bill, it was quite impracticable to prepare any scheme with any idea of finality, but a scheme was under consideration, and would be proceeded with as soon as possible. The board believed that, if the Government Bill passed in anything like its present form, there could be no hope for the future of the Company. Like many others, they would have to succumb, but he was one of those who thought that the burst of indignation which had arisen throughout the country against the Government's proposals could not but cause the Cabinet to consider seriously such genuine opposition, not an opposition by the trade alone, but by everyone associated with it.

Mr. A. W. Ruggles-Brise, in seconding the motion, said that the board were doing their level best to pull the Company through.

Mr. A. L. Normandy inquired why the directors appointed at the instance of the shareholders' committee resigned.

The Chairman said that no reason was assigned, but the board were sorry to lose those gentlemen.

Mr. Hargraves stated that he was willing to explain the reason for his resignation, but in order not to prejudice the Company he would sooner make his statement to a committee than at a public meeting.

Mr. Normandy and other shareholders pressed for the reasons of the resignation of Mr. Hargraves, Mr. Barrington White, and Mr. Pullman.

Mr. White stated that he resigned because he did not agree with the financial methods adopted by the board.

Mr. Biddell, who said that he was formerly a director, alleged that it was due to Mr. White's interference with the business that the position was what it was to-day.

Mr. Mossop remarked that the business was being threatened, not so much by mismanagement as by forces beyond the board's control.

Mr. Hargraves said that the figures for 1907 showed the Company to be in a worse position than it was in 1906 and 1905, and he felt that they were not justified in continuing to trade without first asking the shareholders whether they should do so or not. His colleagues were not of that opinion, and therefore he decided to retire.

After some further discussion the motion was adopted, with a number of dissentients.

CALCUTTA TRAMWAYS.

THE Ordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Calcutta Tramways Company, Limited, was held on Tuesday, at 1 Queen Victoria Street, E.C., Mr. E. C. Morgan (the Chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. R. Elston) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, after a sympathetic reference to the death of Sir Howard Vincent, proceeded to deal with the causes which have led to the large increase in the expenditure. Commencing with the capital account, very large sums of money have been expended upon the works rendered necessary for the extensions which have been in progress during the year. These amount to no less than £145,408, and from this sum there has been practically no return, by reason of the delays which have occurred in getting the new lines into operation. In spite of difficulties which have retarded the natural growth of the system, they have succeeded in obtaining receipts amounting to £167,378, or £3,521 more than was realised in 1906, and about double the amount earned in 1902, when electric traction was first brought into operation. The tendency of the traffic has been towards continued growth, and there is every reason to believe that a further impulse will be given to it as soon as the new lines become operative. The main increase in expenditure has been owing to the maintenance and repairs to the plant, rendered necessary by the severe strain placed on the D.C. engines, in order to obtain the increased traffic receipts. "During the year under review there have been certain untoward incidents, which have operated prejudicially to our business. It is a matter of common knowledge that a severe and widespread strike took place amongst the employees of the East Indian Railway. This interfered with the ordinary service on the railways, and prevented the usual flow of passengers into Calcutta, and was reflected upon the volume of our traffic. It also made the carriage of goods upon the railway difficult, and prevented us from obtaining our supplies of coal with the ease and regularity which ordinarily obtain. There have also been at times disturbances within the city, and although we have not suffered specifically from the results of these disturbances, they have no doubt operated against the usual inflow of country visitors, who feared they might be interfered with, and consequently stayed away. The number of our riders has thus been to some extent curtailed, and our holiday traffic did not reach the figures which might have been expected. As regards the incidents especially affecting our industry, one of the most important has been the obtaining from the Corporation, after a somewhat acrimonious discussion in their council chamber, permission to alter our method of running in accordance with that adopted almost universally elsewhere, by having fixed stopping-places for the cars." He moved: "That the directors' report and statement of accounts to December 31, 1907, as submitted to this meeting, be received and adopted."

Sir Henry Kimber, M.P., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The Chairman next moved: "That a dividend at the rate of 2s. 6d. per share for the year ended December 31, 1907, making, with the 3s. 6d. per share interim dividend already paid, a total dividend for the year of 6 per cent., be and is hereby declared, such dividend to be paid on April 15, free of income tax."

This was seconded by Sir Henry Kimber and agreed to.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the manager and staff in Calcutta. He said that although the result had not been satisfactory, it was not their fault, because they had worked very hard.

Sir Henry Kimber seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

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3. Babbie,	3.....
4. Roger Chillingworth,	4.....
5. Bathsheba Everdene,	5.....
6. L'Abbé Faria,	6.....
7. Archibald Carlyle,	7.....
8. Edith Milbank,	8.....
9. Tom Thurnall,	9.....
10. Ralph Peden,	10.....
11. Will Ladislav,	11.....
12. Ezekiel Daw,	12.....
13. Mr. Oldbuck,	13.....
14. David Balfour,	14.....
15. Captain Mirvan,	15.....
16. Kate Aubrey,	16.....
17. Mr. B.,	17.....
18. Henry Tilney,	18.....
19. Reuben May,	19.....
20. Gerard,	20.....
21. Miss Dunstable,	21.....
22. Philip Hepburn,	22.....
23. Althea Indagine,	23.....
24. Tilly Slowboy,	24.....
25. Leonora Nixon,	25.....
26. Coquette (Catherine Cassilis),	26.....
27. Lord Luxmore,	27.....
28. Mr. Hunsden,	28.....
29. Mrs. O'Dowd,	29.....
30. Eugen Courvoisier,	30.....

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